

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

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NAKASONE, FRG'S BANGEMANN DISCUSS BONN SUMMIT

OW100841 Tokyo KYODO in English 0823 GMT 10 Jan 85

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 10 KYODO -- A new round of multilateral trade negotiations will be "an important subject" of discussions during the seven-nation economic summit in West Germany in May, Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone said Thursday. He made the remarks on the proposed new round, strongly favored by Japan and the United States, in a meeting with visiting West German Economics Minister Martin Bangemann, officials said. "The new round will be an important subject" of talks among leaders of Japan, America, West Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Canada during the annual summit in Bonn May 2-4, an official quoted Nakasone as telling Bangemann.

The visiting West German leader suggested that his country and Japan lead other European and Asian countries in a fight against protectionism in the respective regions, the official reported. Bangemann predicted that the United States will succeed in making a "soft-landing" of its economy, according to a Foreign Ministry official who attended the meeting. West Germany and other European Community member countries have expressed their support of the new round of multilateral trade negotiations for which preparations are slated to begin this year. Tokyo and Washington hope actual negotiations will start next year.

Premier Nakasone told Bangemann his government is willing to aid host West Germany in making the Bonn summit a success via close pre-summit consultations, the Japanese officials said. When asked by Nakasone about the initial U.S.-Soviet agreement on future arms control talks, the West German leader was quoted as characterizing the development as "an important step in the right direction." Prior to his talks with the Japanese premier, Bangemann met Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe and proposed the creation of a work group to explore ways to promote mutual acceptance of test data and standard import certification system.

ABE BRIEFS CABINET ON TRIP TO COLOMBIA

OW110123 Tokyo KYODO in English 0116 GMT 11 Jan 85

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 11 KYODO -- Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe told a cabinet meeting Friday that he believed his trip to Colombia was a success and contributed to strengthening the mutual relationship in various fields. Abe, who visited the Latin American country from January 3 to 4, also said that his trip paved the way to expand mutual co-operation and development. Abe met with President Belisario Betancur and Foreign Minister Augusto Ramirez Ocamo while he was in Bogota for the official visit. Abe was the first Japanese cabinet minister to make an official visit to Colombia.

FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL LEAVES FOR IRAN

OW100805 Tokyo KYODO in English 0708 GMT 10 Jan 85

[By Shiro Yoneyama, KYODO staff writer]

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 10 KYODO -- A senior Japanese Foreign Ministry official left for Iran Thursday to strengthen delicate bilateral relations through what he described as "an orientation tour." Wasuke Miyake, the new director general of the ministry's Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau, asserted in an interview that he plans to "confine myself to bilateral relations" and not to raise the subject of the Iran-Iraq war. "This is just an orientation tour for me," he said of his trip to Tehran from Friday through Sunday. He was appointed to the post in an October swap with Yoshio Hatano, now the chief ministry spokesman.

His primary purpose for the trip, Miyake emphasized, is to "promote personal contact with Iranian officials in order to promote friendly relations" between the two countries. Miyake will later visit Jordan, Turkey and Algeria and attend a three-day meeting in Rome January 17-19 of Japanese envoys stationed in the Mideast region.

Miyake denied that Japan is seeking "a political role" for the end of the Gulf war, although Japan's hope for a de-escalation of hostilities and a negotiated settlement "remains unchanged." He argued that Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe has been active in his quest for a global peace and his recent trip to Africa, for example, "does not mean we forget the importance of the Mideast" to Japan which heavily relies on imported crude from the region. Although Miyake has no intention of raising the Gulf war in his talks with Iranian officials, that does not mean the cessation of Japanese efforts to "facilitate the climate for peace" in the Mideast, ministry spokesman Hatano told reporters.

A Foreign Ministry source speculated that the Iranians as in the past will call on Japan to boost crude imports which apparently dropped considerably in 1984 from the year ago level of 395,000 barrels a day due to tanker attacks, oil price hikes and a global glut. Possible topics of Miyake's talks in Tehran include substation, rolled steel mill and other industrial projects, Hatano said. The source said Miyake is not carrying any fresh Japanese proposal in connection with the Iran-Japan petrochemical complex project whose completion has been delayed by the war. But Miyake is expected to discuss with Iranian officials Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe's visit to Iran and other Mideast countries possibly this spring.

U.S. CLAIMS ABOUT TELECOM EQUIPMENT DENIED

0W111315 Tokyo KYODO in English 1250 GMT 11 Jan 85

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 11 KYODO -- Japan Friday rebuffed United States claims that Japanese policies hamper U.S. telecommunications firms selling equipment in Japan. Responding to U.S. plans to retaliate against the alleged Japanese policies, spokesmen for the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications and the Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Public Corp. (NTT) said, "The U.S. assertion is quite different from realities."

U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Mark Fowler said Thursday he had instructed the FCC staff to review the agency's certification program on U.S. telecommunication imports because of concerns raised by U.S. Department of Commerce. Fowler said the FCC certifies products in 60 days but the Japanese authorities take up to two years. The spokesmen stressed that Japan would continue to keep its certification system open to overseas entrants.

The spokesman for NTT said, "We have never heard of a case in which the certification took two years. The certification period is cut year by year with the period recently being shortened to 50 days." The U.S. is concerned that when the NTT is denationalized in April, the certification process will be left to a third party, leading to disadvantages to U.S. products.

But the spokesman for the Postal Ministry stressed that the new system will definitely be more open than the existing one although it will take time to present an overall picture of the new one. He added that Japan would seek U.S. understanding in this respect.

HO TAM URGES ACCEPTANCE OF TRIPARTITE TALKS

SK101444 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1200 GMT 10 Jan 85

[Talk by Ho Tam, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the WPK Central Committee, and chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, dated 10 January -- read by announcer]

[Text] In his New Year's address this year, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song summed up the proud successes attained by our party and the government of the republic last year in external relations, the struggle for the reunification of the fatherland, and socialist economic construction, and put forward the militant tasks to be carried out this year.

The great leader mentioned, in particular, the great advance attained last year in our people's struggle for the reunification of the fatherland, and elucidated the bright future of peace and the independent and peaceful reunification of the country. Our party and the government of the republic made a proposal for tripartite talks early last year and actively struggled for the realization of such talks, further invigorating the ardent desire for the reunification of the fatherland among all the Korean people at home and abroad, and further strengthening the international solidarity with our cause of reunification.

Furthermore, they made repeated efforts to provide contacts and dialogue between the North and the South and realized the North-South economic talks and preliminary Red Cross contacts.

It is an important event of great significance for national unity and in opening a breakthrough for the peaceful reunification of the country that, with the realization of the relief step embodying compatriotic love for the South Korean flood victims through the proposal and effort advanced as a result of our initiative, the door for North-South dialogue was opened again.

The great leader summed up such successes attained in the struggle for peace and the peaceful reunification of the country, confirmed the firm position of our party and the government of the republic on tripartite talks and North-South talks, and made a new proposal for gradually developing North-South talks as far as high-level political talks.

Such a position and a new proposal of our party and the government of the republic set forth by the respected and beloved leader in his New Year's address is now commanding active support from all the Korean people and evoking the consensus of the broad social opinion of the world.

I affirm that the proposal of the great leader for the realization of tripartite talks and for developing North-South dialogue is the most reasonable and realistic step for national salvation for promoting the independent and peaceful reunification of the fatherland, and warmly support and welcome this in the name of all the people who aspire for peace and the peaceful reunification of the country.

The fact that the great leader elucidated the need to make consistent, steady, and patient efforts to realize tripartite talks is based on what is called for by the tense situation in our country and on the experience of North-South dialogue last year. Our proposal for tripartite talks is the most reasonable plan for national salvation to ease tension on the Korean peninsula, to eliminate the root of the evil of war, and to provide the precondition for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country, and the most realistic, fair, and just method of negotiation that has been sufficiently presented taking into consideration past historical facts.

Last year, North-South dialogue was realized, but because acts adversely affecting the atmosphere for dialogue were committed in South Korea, the situation in our country was made more tense than before. In South Korea, war exercise rackets, including joint military exercises against us, were staged continuously, arms buildup and military provocations continued, and an extremely grave situation was even created, such as the shooting incident of murdering security guards of our side in Panmunjom, leading the situation to the brink of war. This showed that unless solid peace is guaranteed on the Korean peninsula, it is not only impossible to advance North-South dialogue, but dialogue itself could be suddenly ruptured.

Such a situation demands that we, the United States, and the South Korean side -- who are directly responsible for the creation of tension on the Korean peninsula -- sit together and hold tripartite talks at an early date. If tripartite talks were held, they would provide a guarantee for easing tension and ensuring solid peace on the Korean peninsula, and they would encouragingly contribute to promoting North-South dialogue.

The fact that the great leader again elucidated in his New Year's address the need to realize tripartite talks is another expression of the serious and sincere effort of our party and the government of the republic to solve the Korean question peacefully through dialogue and negotiation.

By putting forth a new proposal for developing the North-South dialogue into high-level political talks in his New Year address, the respected and beloved leader has also opened another turning point on the path to peace and peaceful reunification of the country. In order to open a phase for peace and peaceful reunification of Korea, it is imperative to actively push ahead with North-South dialogue, along with the tripartite talks. Conducting North-South dialogue can clear away distrust and misunderstanding between the North and the South, which have accumulated over a long period of time, promote national harmony and unity, and hasten the cause of national reunification.

In particular, holding high-level North-South political talks can improve North-South relations and smoothly solve all the difficult and complicated problems arising on the path to national reunification in accordance with the noble ideology of independence, peaceful reunification, and great national unity.

This being the case, not only should the North-South talks that have already been established be conducted well, but broad negotiations should also be provided, and these negotiations should be developed to the point that they will lead to high-level North-South political talks.

The great leader's elucidation, in his New Year address, that the tripartite talks should be conducted and North-South talks should also be developed positively is the most reasonable and realistic policy aimed at hastening peace and peaceful reunification of our country and the most just proposal for national salvation in full accord with our national aspirations and with the demand of the times.

The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught. People in the northern half of the republic and the South Korean people, as well as all compatriots abroad, should achieve the national aspiration for national reunification at an early date by achieving great national unity and by struggling with the united strength of the entire people, on the basis of the spirit of the 4 July joint statement.

Realizing peace, independence, and peaceful reunification of the country is the most urgent task facing our people today. Today, nearly 40 years since national liberation and national division, we cannot hand the national task of achieving national reunification down to the next generation without achieving it.

National reunification is a work on behalf of the entire people and it is a pan-national cause that can be achieved only when it is based on the united strength of the entire people.

All the Korean compatriots in the North, the South, and overseas should actively struggle to achieve the national aspiration for national reunification at an early date by firmly uniting as one, transcending differences in ideologies, systems, political views, and religions. In order to achieve the cause of national reunification, the tripartite talks, first of all, should be realized as soon as possible and the North-South talks should be developed.

The U.S. and South Korean authorities should respond to our fair and objective proposal for tripartite talks at an early date and should not do anything that would impede the progress of North-South dialogue.

At a time when we are making efforts to solve the Korean question through dialogue and negotiations, the U.S. and South Korean authorities are about to stage the "Team Spirit-85" joint military exercise, the largest in scale, against us, by mobilizing a great number of troops, numbering 200,000. This is an insult to our proposal for peace negotiations and a challenge to dialogue and peace. In light of their racket of staging a war exercise, blurring the atmosphere of dialogue and aggravating tensions, our proposal for contacts between vice premiers from the North and the South to clear away the difficulties laid before the North-South economic talks was a very timely and just measure and the postponement of the eighth full-fledged Red Cross talks was also very appropriate.

If they are genuinely interested in dialogue and peace, the U.S. and South Korean authorities should call off the plan for the provocative "Team Spirit-85" joint military exercise and abstain from committing acts that strain the situation.

Upholding the epochal policy for national salvation that the great leader has stated in his New Year address, the CPRF will actively struggle to open a new phase for national reunification and will actively contribute to decorating this year, which will mark the 40th anniversary of national liberation and the 40th anniversary of the founding of our party, as the most shining year in the annals of our fatherland.

I am convinced that the South Korean people and the compatriots abroad will vigorously rise in the sacred struggle to realize the imbuing of South Korean society with independence and its democratization and to hasten national reunification, on the heels of last year.

[Dated] 10 January 1985, Pyongyang

RADIO COMMENTATOR VIEWS NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE

SK110105 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1251 GMT 10 Jan 85

[Commentary: "Dialogue and War Rackets Cannot Be Compatible With Each Other," by Cho Tong-il, a station commentator of this Broadcasting Committee]

[Text] As has already been reported, on 9 January, a vice premier of the DPRK State Administration Council sent a telephone notice and made our side's stand clear in connection with the fact that the United States and the South Korean side had laid artificial obstacles to North-South economic talks to be held in a full-dress manner by making an official announcement of a plan for the large-scale "Team Spirit-85" joint military exercise.

In his telephone notice, he stated that, if the South Korean side persisted in staging the "Team Spirit-85" joint military exercise, it would be difficult to hold the second round of North-South economic talks as scheduled, and proposed a direct meeting with the vice prime minister of South Korea at Panmunjom to discuss measures to tide over the difficulties facing economic talks.

On the same day, the chairman of the DPRK Red Cross Society Central Committee sent a telephone notice to the president of the South Korean Red Cross Society and made clear our stand that the scheduled eighth round of full-dress Red Cross talks cannot but be postponed until the "Team Spirit-85" war racket is stopped.

These stands and measures, which our side elucidated through the telephone notices, are extremely just reflecting our principled position toward dialogue and peace. As has been known, proceeding from our earnest aspirations for peace and peaceful reunification, we have very sincerely dealt with dialogue and negotiations in order to improve North-South relations in the state of confrontation and to create an atmosphere for national unity and trust. Through our initiative overtures and active efforts, we saw to it that North-South economic talks and Red Cross talks were held. In the wake of this, we decided to sit face to face again with the South Korean side in the new year in the spirit of valuing and treasuring North-South dialogue which had been resumed after a long lapse of time, even though the South Korean side had triggered with the United States such a grave military provocation as the Panmunjom shooting incident.

This notwithstanding, just when the second round of North-South economic talks and the eighth round of North-South Red Cross talks were near at hand, the South Korean side announced the plan to stage with the United States the unprecedented-in-scale "Team Spirit-85" joint military exercise against us, the other side to the dialogue, by mobilizing some 200,000 military forces. No matter what excuse or sophism the South Korean side spins out to hide the criminal nature of the rehearsal while saying that the drill is not offensive in nature and follows normal practice, it is obvious to everyone that the exercise is a combined and 3-dimensional preliminary war and test nuclear war to attack us. The exercise is a deliberate hostile military action of aggravating again our country's situation which went to detente after a long interval, and of leading the situation to the brink of war, it is an intolerable insult to our side which put forward a peace proposal, and it is a vicious provocative act of denying and destroying dialogue.

A war exercise cannot become dialogue and be compatible with it. Furthermore, under the condition in which the South Korean side as a host is trying to brandish a sword against our side, a guest, and reeks with powder, it is inconceivable for us to go to such a terror-ridden place. Under the situation in which the South Korean side is threatening and blackmailing us with armed forces, how on earth can our delegation go to Seoul with peace of mind? Even if it were to go there, how could a good result be expected?

As long as the South Korean side is, indeed, resorting to the lines of confrontation and war against us behind the scenes while paying lip-service to dialogue and peace, no success can be expected even though dialogue is held. For this very reason, our side, through the telephone notices, expressed its stand that, if the South Korean side persists in staging the criminal "Team Spirit-85" joint military exercise, it would be difficult to hold the second round of North-South economic talks as scheduled and that the scheduled eighth round of full-dress Red Cross talks cannot but be postponed until the provocative war rackets are stopped.

The United States and the South Korean persons in authority are held totally responsible for the postponement of dialogue by laying obstacles to the road of North-South dialogue.

If they are genuinely interested in dialogue and peace, the United States and the South Korean authorities should immediately call off the plan for the provocative "Team Spirit-85" joint military exercise and should not conduct an act of laying obstacles to dialogue.

Even though we treasure dialogue, peace, and reunification, we have no intention of imploring for dialogue on our knees before the provokers, or begging for peace and reunification.

Should they persist in going to the road of confrontation and war by running counter to the unanimous aspirations of the people at home and abroad, the United States and the South Korean persons in authority will never see good results.

PAPER DENOUNCES CHON'S NEW YEAR POLICY SPEECH

SK110436 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2144 GMT 10 Jan 85

[NODONG SINMUN 11 January commentary: "Deceptive Drama Aimed at Election"]

[Text] On 9 January, the South Korean dictator delivered a policy speech before the National Assembly. His address, which covered all of the domains of diplomatic, military, reunification, political, economic, and cultural policies in South Korea, was a lengthy one, lasting more than an hour.

Most of the listeners were dozing, not listening to his address. The address, delivered at a special assembly session, which was hastily convened with the February National Assembly elections approaching, is, in a word, a fabrication aimed at winning popularity for the elections.

That day, he made a show of power by using all sorts of flowery words in the meaningless speech. This is shown by the fact that he attempted to set forth in his address his visions of the future of South Korea extending to the 21st century, thus raising a fuss. It is foolish and presumptuous to predict the 21st century, which will not fall in his term of office.

From the very beginning, he attempted to embellish his nation-selling, flunkeyist nature by making absurd remarks concerning diplomatic policy. As for foreign relations, he said that strengthening of friendship and cooperation with the West, including the United States and Japan, is his basic line, and confirmed that he will continue pursuing the line of depending on the United States and Japan.

He even put forth as a great achievement his treacherous act of selling the nation and the people committed during his visit to Japan last year. In Japan, at the price of an expression of regret made by the Japanese emperor, he acquitted the vicious crime committed by the Japanese imperialists against the Korean people during a half century of colonial rule. He also encouraged the aggressive maneuvers of the Japanese reactionaries by strengthening political, economic, and military collusion with them. No matter how frantically the South Korean dictator may make flowery words, he can never conceal his treacherous act.

While advocating strengthening of ties with foreign countries, he babbled that he will pursue an open-door policy, paying attention even to socialist countries.

South Korea is a U.S. colony with no sovereignty or even the prerogative of supreme command. It is a great misunderstanding for him to think that the dignified socialist countries will associate with him if he opens the door.

The South Korean dictator should know that the reason the socialist countries did not associate with him is not because South Korea had not opened the door for them.

In his address, Chon Tu-hwan disguised himself as a pacifist. Facts show that he is a more frantic warmonger than any other previous rulers in South Korea. Today, there are more than a million regular armed forces and 10 million quasi-military forces in South Korea, which is an unprecedentedly large scale.

The war exercise rackets in South Korea have also been strengthened unprecedently. As shown by the Kwangju incident in 1980, he murdered a number of residents by using armed forces against the masses staging peaceful demonstrations. His powder-reeking is too fierce to allow him to disguise himself as a pacifist.

Discussing North-South relations on that day, the dictator babbled about unity and reconciliation. However, he did not express his desire for democracy in society, or express a willingness to stop pursuing the anticommunist confrontation policy or to put an end to the colonial fascist rule in South Korea. That he made remarks on unity and reconciliation, while ignoring such fundamental and prerequisite issues as abandonment of the anticommunist confrontation policy, only means that, having no desire for peaceful reunification, he will pursue division.

In his address, he inspired development of national strength and confrontation by force. Thus, he showed his intention to suppress us by force, not to achieve reconciliation. We can achieve neither peace nor reunification through confrontation by force. This will only deepen division and increase the danger of war.

His advocacy of the development of national strength only shows his bellicose nature of achieving reunification by defeating communists, not by peaceful means, of cultivating strength, and of depending on outside forces.

In his address, Chon Tu-hwan put forth nothing new on the reunification issue and only repeated empty remarks on dialogue, peace, and so forth. He did not show any sincerity toward the North-South economic talks and Red-Cross talks which have been placed on the schedule. Although he paid lip-service to dialogue and peace, the "Team Spirit-85" joint military exercise which he is going to stage with the United States shows the falsehoods and hypocrisy of his slogans.

Who would say that firing at the other side to dialogue, reeking powder against it, while expecting dialogue, is an attitude showing a desire for dialogue and peace? War exercise rackets are inconsistent with dialogue and peaceful reunification.

If the South Korean authorities truly want peace and reunification, they should abandon the confrontation by force and war rackets and respond to our proposal for tripartite talks without delay. Unless they do so, their remarks on dialogue and peace will remain empty falsehoods.

The South Korean dictator raved again about elimination of violence while talking about political issues. The deceptive nature of his remarks concerning the elimination of violence was fully shown by the repressive rackets he perpetrated last year behind the curtain of his slogans in South Korea.

As is known, the fascist elements mercilessly suppressed their political rivals and the people, setting up an unprecedentedly repressive system in South Korea and resorting to violence. They also repressed the students of Seoul University by throwing some 6,000 policemen onto the campus and turned the Yonsei University campus into a site of violence where guns and bayonets were rampant by driving more than 10,000 armed policemen onto the campus.

A few days ago, they placed Kim Yong-sam, former president of the New Democratic Party, under house arrest. The remarks on elimination of violence while leaving intact the fascist regime which was formed by cruel violent acts such as the 12 December military coup and the Kwangju suppression is a self-contradictory theory.

He also raved about the peaceful transfer of power. As soon as he usurped power, Chon Tu-hwan extended the term of the presidency to 7 years, almost twice the length of the previous term, by revising the Constitution. He is maneuvering to remain in power even before his term ends.

In particular, with the approach of the National Assembly election slated for February, he has already begun to run amok to get votes by putting forth various election pledges. He is also perpetrating repressive roundups everywhere while raving that acts inspiring the masses to block the advance of opposition forces [as heard] will be punished in accordance with the law. Needless to say, this is a maneuver to fill the National Assembly, which will exist until the next presidential election, with his followers, thereby making it a stepping-stone for his long-term power. The peaceful transfer of power he advocated is nothing but a smokescreen designed to conceal his plot for long-term power.

He also lectured about unity, harmony, and a clean social image. His remarks, however, cannot serve as a veil to cover up the darkness in South Korean society, overflowing with the people's anger, corruption and irregularities, and social evils. The person in authority in South Korea attempted to build up a fantasy, as if a miracle will take place in the 21st century, while babbling about economic growth and development.

Just the day before, when Chon Tu-hwan took to the stage to deliver a policy address, a South Korean radio report held that when he speaks about the South Korean economy, he should point out the seriousness of the question of foreign loans, which exceed some \$50 billion, reaching 50 percent of the gross national product. It is necessary for us to recall the analysis made by a Japanese magazine which noted that the South Korean economy belongs to someone else and that only cheap labor power, lands, and waters belong to South Korea.

As a result of the maneuvers to induce foreign capital, which were accelerated during his term under the billboard of growth, economic subjugation was further deepened and the foreign debt increased almost two and a half times.

No one will listen to the remark on growth which was made amid the whirlpool of foreign debts and the subordinate economy. He raved as if he can solve the question of people's livelihood on the basis of economic strength. However, he intentionally ignored the outcries of the residents, which resounded because of the serious problems concerning the necessities of life, and instead pretended that everything is alright.

The policy address delivered by the person in authority in South Korea was an immature political drama aimed at seizing a favorable position in the upcoming election by embellishing his treacherous rule and putting forth a preposterous vision, and at realizing his long-term ambition. The footprints of the past and today's acts by the person in authority in South Korea are too ugly for him to describe himself as a pacifist, one calling for reunification, a democrat and a clean person.

The South Korean people are calling for Chon Tu-hwan's resignation. The person in authority in South Korea should apologize to the people for his crimes instead of attempting to embellish himself with unworthy excuses. He had better step down from power.

JUSTNESS OF TRIPARTITE TALKS PROPOSAL DISCUSSED

SK110531 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2230 GMT 10 Jan 85

[Unattributed talk: "Most Righteous Policy To Expedite National Reunification"]

[Text] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, in his New Year address, clarified the struggle of our party and people for national reunification. In his New Year address, the great leader noted that the proposal for tripartite talks put forward last year by our party and the government of the republic has aroused active support, sympathy, and response at home and abroad.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: Because of its righteousness, our proposal for tripartite talks not only has won active support among the entire people in North and South Korea and compatriots abroad, but has also aroused great repercussions among the people in the world. The proposal for tripartite talks is a most fair, aboveboard, and reasonable proposal to alleviate tension prevailing in our country and to provide a prerequisite for the independent and peaceful reunification of the fatherland and has, therefore, aroused active support and sympathy among peoples at home and abroad. This proposal also constitutes an epochal measure making it possible to eliminate the acute tension prevailing on the Korean peninsula and the source of war there and to achieve solid peace there.

Tripartite talks make it possible for the parties responsible for the solution of the Korean question to sit together, to conclude a peaceful agreement between Korea and the United States for the withdrawal of U.S forces from South Korea, to adopt a declaration of non-aggression between the North and the South, and, thus, to open a peaceful atmosphere for the solution of the Korean question.

By holding the tripartite talks between our republic, the United States, and South Korea and by replacing the Korean Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement we can ease tension, remove the danger of a new war in our country, and, thus, achieve solid peace there.

By adopting a declaration of non-aggression at the tripartite talks we can also put an end to the arms race and military confrontation between the North and the South and provide conditions and circumstances in which the country can be reunified peacefully.

The proposal for tripartite talks is a reasonable step which makes it possible to create an important atmosphere in independently solving the reunification question of the country by the Korean people's own strength and under the principle of self-determination of the nation.

If a peace agreement between us and the United States is concluded, declaration of non-aggression between the North and the South is adopted through the tripartite talks, and, thus, a favorable prerequisite for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country is created, the North and South can hold dialogue for reunification and solve the reunification question of the country by our nation's own strength in accordance with the three principle of independence, peaceful reunification, and great national unity indicated in the historic 4 July North-South joint statement. Therefore, our proposal for tripartite talks is an epochal step for national salvation which gives the entire people a bright prospect for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

Because of its justness and fairness, our proposal for tripartite talks has won active support among the entire Korean people in the North and the South and our compatriots abroad and has aroused great repercussions among the people of the world.

In his New Year address, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song elucidated the ways of creating a favorable atmosphere for the peaceful reunification of the fatherland by actively pushing ahead with dialogue between the North and the South and by realizing wide-ranging collaboration and exchange between them.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: Last year, our party and the government of the republic made active efforts to realize contact and dialogue between the North and the South in accordance with the lofty ideal of independence, peaceful reunification, and great national unity indicated in the historic 4 July North-South joint statement.

Last year, our republic made active efforts to realize contact and dialogue between the North and the South and took the compatriotic step of sending relief goods to the South Korean flood victims for the first time in the history of national division. With this as an occasion, last year dialogue between the North and the South was realized in various fields. This was an important event in opening a way for the peaceful reunification of the fatherland.

Last year, North-South economic talks and contact between the Red Cross organizations of the North and the South were realized. Only by actively pushing ahead with dialogue between the North and the South and by realizing wide-ranging collaboration and exchange between them can the North and the South pool their strength, develop the nation's economy in a unified manner, and achieve national development and prosperity in all fields.

In his New Year address, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song stressed the need to conduct wide-ranging negotiations and many-sided collaboration and exchange between the North and the South and said that if this were successfully carried out, high-level talks between the North and the South could be realized. This is an active initiative to further develop North-South dialogue and a clear expression of our republic's consistent stand and sincere efforts for the peaceful solution of the question reunification of the fatherland.

If this proposal for tripartite talks, which is of epochal significance in ensuring peace in Korea and in achieving national unity, were realized, a bright prospect would be opened on the road of national reunification.

The people in the northern half of the republic, the South Korean people, and all compatriots abroad should struggle to achieve great national unity on the basis of the spirit of the 4 July North-South joint statement so that they can achieve the long-cherished national desire for national reunification at an early date.

U.S.-JAPAN SUMMIT TALKS TERMED 'COLLUSION'

SK101410 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0953 GMT 10 Jan 85

[NODONG SINMUN 10 January commentary: "On the Path to Aggression"]

[Text] As has been known, U.S. President Reagan and Japanese Prime Minister Nakasone held U.S.-Japan summit talks in Los Angeles, the United States, on 2 January. This is the fifth meeting between Reagan and Nakasone since Nakasone took office as Japanese prime minister in November 1983.

During the summit meeting, the two reportedly discussed international issues of mutual interest and U.S.-Japan trade issues. The issues discussed and agreed upon in Los Angeles show that the collusion between the United States and Japan is further deepening in all fields -- political, economic, and military.

The issue of military cooperation between the United States and Japan was the chief agenda item discussed at the summit meeting. In the statement issued at the end of the summit talks, Reagan said that they had reaffirmed the life-and-death interests of both the United States and Japan and decided to strengthen them. Nakasone said that Japan will redouble its efforts for defense. Also, the Japanese side, approving the U.S. "star wars" plan, said that it will stay in step with the United States in preparations for arms-control negotiations.

This shows that the Japanese reactionaries are becoming more active in cooperation with the United States in its adventurous nuclear war strategy for domination of the world. The military collusion and aggressive attempts by the United States and Japan are more evident in the discussion of matters concerning Korea. Agreeing on the need for close consultation between the United States, Japan, and South Korea, the U.S. and Japanese summiteers said that the two countries will do their utmost in such matters as exchange of information for close consultation. This cannot but be interpreted as an intention to further push through with and complete the integration of the United States, Japan, and South Korea into one military body.

Though they are superficially babbling about dialogue and contacts, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are, in practice, about to stage a war exercise called "Team Spirit-85" by mobilizing the aggressive Armed Forces on a previously unknown scale.

It is clear to all that this kind of act of openly threatening the other party to dialogue is aimed not at relaxation of tension, but at preparation for a new war. It is well known that whenever "Team Spirit" joint military exercises were conducted, Japanese territory has been used as a launching base, a relaying base, and a logistics base for a U.S. invasion of Korea.

There is no need to speak further about the fact that the just-finished U.S.-Japan summit talks served as an opportunity for further strengthening the Japanese participation in and cooperation for the U.S. imperialists' policy to invade Korea.

In the just-finished summit meeting, issues concerning trade friction between the two countries, which has become acute, were also discussed. Last year, the United States recorded a vast deficit, totaling \$35 billion, in trade with Japan. Under such circumstances, the United States has once again demanded that Japan open markets and take measures to restrict exports based on capital.

In its turn, Japan appealed to the United States to maintain the free trade system and reject trade protectionism. In particular, Japan believes that the growing deficit on the part of the United States in trade with Japan is due largely to the high value of the dollar. Japan has also asserted that it is unjust for the United States to put pressure on Japan to buy only expensive coal while banning the export of Alaska-produced crude oil and gas to Japan.

Commenting on such trade friction, some political commentators said that relations between the United States and Japan will ebb should the trade friction continue. In the meantime, Reagan said that he had not put pressure on Nakasone regarding the trade issue, and Nakasone said that Japan will exert sincere efforts to address the trade imbalance, as demanded by the United States. This demonstrates that the United States and Japan put the issue of the trade deficit aside for their political and economic collusion.

The fact that the two countries concentrated on strengthening military and economic collusion at the just-finished meeting can be said to have reflected the life-and-death interests of the U.S. and Japanese reactionaries whose common interests are interwoven. There is no doubt that the military collusion and schemes to prepare for new war between the U.S. and Japanese reactionaries will be further strengthened on the path toward aggression and war.

SOUTH GROUP URGES OPPOSITION ROLE IN DIALOGUE

SK110845 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0825 GMT 11 Jan 85

[Text] Pyongyang January 11 (KCNA) -- The National Council for Democracy and Unification, a South Korean organisation for democracy, on January 7 issued a statement containing a 17-point demand vis-a-vis the puppet authorities, the South Korean paper CHOSON ILBO reported on January 8. The statement declared that "'National Assembly elections' to be carried out under the present law" which guarantees the long-term office of the traitor Chon Tu-hwan are "meaningless". It, in particular, strongly called for the "participation of opposition figures in the North-South dialogue".

KIM YONG-SAM VOWS TO STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY

SK110820 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0809 GMT 11 Jan 85

[Text] Pyongyang January 11 (KCNA) -- Kim Yong-sam, president of the defunct New Democratic Party, who has been placed under house arrest said on January 8 he would "continue the struggle for democracy defying the suppression" by the Chon Tu-hwan fascist clique and "devote himself to bring democracy" to South Korean society, according to reports of Japanese papers. This determination was expressed through his confidants. Kim bitterly denounced the Chon Tu-hwan military hooligans for having mobilized about 150 puppet policemen and three police vehicles to surround his house and strictly stop people from going in and out. "If illegal suppression continued, I could not but take a strong action against it", he warned.

ASAHI SHIMBUN on January 9 said "Kim Yong-sam is ready to fight to the last despite the authorities' threat and, accordingly, his confrontation with the authorities will continue in the future, too." The paper drew attention to the political developments in south korea on the threshold of the puppet national assembly "elections".

FOREIGN REACTION TO KIM'S 7 JAN BANQUET SPEECH

PRC Expresses Support

SK110341 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0333 GMT 11 Jan 85

[Text] Beijing January 9 (KCNA) -- The spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, at a news briefing held in Beijing on the 9th, expressed China's support to the speech of the great leader President Kim Il-song made at the banquet given in honour of the Portuguese Communist Party delegation, according to a XINHUA report. President Kim Il-song's statement that the United States and South Korea must give up joint military exercises reflects the strong desire of the Korean people for the detente on the Korean peninsula, the spokesman said.

The spokesman noted the decision of the United States and South Korea to hold large-scale joint military exercises at a time when there is the sign of the relaxation of the situation of the Korean peninsula will result only in heightening the tensions there and such rehearsals would adversely affect the contact and dialogue between the North and the South. Such rehearsals of the United States and South Korea go against the desire of the people in the North and South of Korea and the world's people, stressed the spokesman.

Speech Reported Abroad

SK100343 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0332 GMT 10 Jan 85

[Text] Pyongyang January 10 (KCNA) -- Foreign mass media reported the speech made by Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, at the banquet he arranged for the delegation of the Portuguese Communist Party headed by Comrade Alvaro Cunhal, its general secretary. It was reported by the Soviet paper PRAVDA and the Chinese paper PEOPLE'S DAILY on January 9 and by TASS, XINHUA, ADN, Radio Moscow and Radio Beijing on January 8. REUTER, A.P., Radio NHK and Radio Tampa of Japan and the Voice of America also reported the speech on January 8.

KIM CHONG-IL, LEADERS EXCHANGE NEW YEAR CARDS

SK100353 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0339 GMT 10 Jan 85

[Text] Pyongyang January 10 (KCNA) -- Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il exchanged New Year cards and messages of greetings with the party and state leaders and figures of various countries on the occasion of the New Year 1985. He exchanged New Year cards or messages with: Comrade Hu Yaobang, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China; Comrade Deng Xiaoping, chairman of the Central Advisory Commission of the CPC and chairman of the Military Commission of the Central Committee of the CPC; Comrade Li Xiannian, president of the People's Republic of China; Comrade Peng Zhen, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the PRC; Comrade Zhao Ziyang, premier of the State Council of the PRC; Comrade Deng Yingchao, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference; Comrade Yang Shangkun, permanent vice-chairman of the Military Commission of the Central Committee of the CPC; Comrade Hu Qili, member of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the CPC; Comrade Qiao Shi, alternate member of the Secretariat, and head of the Organisational Department of the CPC Central Committee; Comrade A.A. Gromyko, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, first vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister of the USSR; Comrade G.A. Aliyev, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the CPSU and first vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR; Comrade V.V. Grishin, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the CPSU and first secretary of the Moscow City Committee of the CPSU; Comrade M.S. Solomentsev, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the CPSU and chairman of the party Control Committee under the party Central Committee; Comrade Emil Bobu, secretary of the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party; Agatha Barbara, president of the Republic of Malta; Canaan Banana, president of the Republic of Zimbabwe; Samuel Kanyon Doe, head of state of the Republic of Liberia; Jorge del Prado, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Peruvian Communist Party; Emile Mworoza, secretary-general of the Burundi Party of National Unity and Progress; J.M.M. Luwuliza-Kirunda, general secretary of the Uganda People's Congress; Manandafy Rakotonirina, secretary general of the Party for the Proletarian Power of Madagascar; the Central Committee of the Panhellenic Socialist Movement; Jose Francisco Aguilar Bulgarelli, general secretary of the Popular Force organised in Costa Rica; Carmelo Mifsud Bonnic, leader-designate of the Malta Labour Party; Lucio Luzzatto, president of the International Liaison Committee for the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea; and Henrik Beer, Honorary secretary-general of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Geneva.

Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il received New Year cards from Comrade K.V. Rusakov, secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union; Stanley Faulkner, chairman of the U.S. Lawyers Committee on Korea; and Chrisis Prentzas, secretary of Larnaca District of the Socialist Youth of Cyprus; Dieter Schnabel, director of the Karl O. Helm Company, Ltd. in West Germany; G. Labes of the Babcock Company, Ltd. of Germany; and Alfred Rittel, general director of the Baikal Import and Export Corporation in West Berlin.

CHON URGES EFFORTS TO REVIVE N-S DIALOGUE

SK111105 Seoul YONHAP in English 1030 GMT 11 Jan 85

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 11 (OANA-YONHAP) -- South Korean President Chon Tu-hwan Friday asked the nation to try its best to revive the dialogue between the divided halves of the Korean peninsula. "Because the Korean question can never be the object of bargaining between the superpowers, we should make our utmost efforts to solve the question with our own hands," the president said.

Chon's remarks followed a briefing session on the Home Affairs Ministry's basic policy guidelines for 1985. The session was held at the presidential mansion, Chongwadae.

"We cannot but suspect the true intentions of the communist regime in the North, with regard to the inter-Korean dialogue," Chon said. "They have unilaterally decided to postpone the South-North economic and Red Cross talks on the pretext of the annual defensive military exercises between the Korean and U.S. forces."

The economic and Red Cross talks had been scheduled for this month in the truce village of Panmunjom and Seoul, respectively.

In its persistent efforts to establish dialogue with Pyongyang, Seoul must retain a sense of mission and a belief that the recurrence of war on the Korean peninsula should be prevented by any means possible, Chon said. The tragedy of national division should not be carried unsolved into the next century, he added.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE TO NORTH

SK110207 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 11 Jan 85 p 2

[**"Text"** of Deputy Prime Minister Sin Pyong-hyon's telephone message to the North]

[Text] Kim Hwan, vice premier of the State Administration Council of North Korea:

I can hardly hold back my disappointment and surprise upon receiving your 9 January telephone message in which you criticized our side's normal military exercise and asserted that you will not come to the North-South economic talks, scheduled for 17 January, under the pretext of that military exercise.

All people in the North and the South are now pleased with the holding of the long-awaited North-South dialogue and have high hopes, in particular, for the two-pronged talks between the North and the South scheduled for this month.

Under such circumstances, your side's unilateral attempt to indefinitely postpone the second round of the North-South economic talks only a week before the scheduled time by finding fault with our side's military exercise, which is normally conducted openly and with a defensive purpose, is an act ignoring the hope of the people at home and abroad that the talks would be held smoothly.

As for military exercises, it is widely known that your side conducts annual mobile exercise in the areas around the truce line by mobilizing a vast number of troops to attack our side. Despite this, your side now refuses to come to the scheduled talks while taking us to task for this normal military exercise. This cannot but be a preposterous assertion.

Even during our side's past military exercises, both the North and the South held many North-South talks, including the contacts between working-level delegations for the talks between prime ministers of the North and the South. For example, last April, when the "Team Spirit" exercise was being conducted and the North-South sports talks started at the same time, your side did not pick a quarrel with us by connecting the exercise to the talks. What is more, our side's military exercise was already expected when the North and the South were discussing when to hold the second round of the North-South economic talks.

In spite of this, your side is now taking issue with us once again by connecting the military exercise to the talks. We cannot help but suspect you of ulterior motives.

On 23 November last year, security guards of your side crossed over the Military Demarcation Line at Panmunjom and committed a provocative act of firing first at our side. After this, blaming our side like a thief calls others thieves, your side unilaterally postponed the North-South economic talks. Because your side is repeating your insincere precedence of trying to postpone the talks under an unjust excuse, we cannot but question the truthfulness of your intention toward North-South talks.

If your side has a real intention of sincerely holding the North-South talks, your side will have to observe well in front of others what has been agreed between the North and the South.

Who would believe your sincerity if you propose new talks, just as you did, while -- in a breach of agreement -- refusing to hold the second round of the North-South economic talks as scheduled? Not only to allow the scheduled North-South economic talks to progress smoothly, but also to provide a firm stepping stone for future multifaceted contacts and exchanges that might materialize between the North and the South, I think the second round of the North-South economic talks should be held as scheduled, without fail.

I believe that it is always possible for me to meet directly with you if the second round of the North-South economic talks are held as scheduled and if some good results are produced there.

Proceeding from this stand, I urge that the second round of the North-South economic talks be held at 1000 on 17 January at Panmunjom as scheduled, as agreed to by both the North and the South and as has been promised before our people and the peace-loving people of the world.

I expect an affirmative response to my call.

[Date] 10 January, 1985

[Signed] Sin Pyong-hyon, deputy prime minister and minister of the Economic Planning Board, Republic of Korea

RED CROSS CHAIRMAN'S RESPONSE TO NORTH MESSAGE

SK110300 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 11 Jan 85

[Text of telephone message from Yu Chang-sun, president of the ROK Red Cross Society to Son Song-pil, chairman of the Central Committee of the Red Cross Society of North Korea]

[Text] It is really surprising and regrettable that you said all of a sudden that you would postpone, unilaterally, the eighth North-South Red Cross talks to be held in Seoul on 23 January.

Viewing the very human scene in which 10 million displaced families -- who have cried before the artificial barrier of national division -- are waiting eagerly for the meeting of the North and the South, stopping for a while their tears of regret in buoyant but cautious expectations, I feel both disappointment and sadness at the insincere attitude and cruel political trick of your side when undertaking such an important work for the nation.

As is widely known, the "Team Spirit" exercise of our side, which has been held for a number of years, is an annual event held solely for defensive purposes and maintenance of peace, and its execution this year was well anticipated when the agreement was reached between the Red Cross Societies of the North and the South to hold the eighth round of talks in Seoul.

In spite of this, your side is planning to postpone the eighth full-dress North-South Red Cross talks, finding fault with the military exercise of our side which is irrelevant to the talks -- this leads us to doubt the sincerity of your side in undertaking the Red Cross talks.

We think that the humanitarian spirit of the Red Cross should be observed in solving the problems of the displaced families separated between the North and the South. We think that we should not disappoint the displaced families separated between the North and the South by repeating the unfortunate past in which the North-South Red Cross talks, which should be pure, were hampered or distorted by non-Red Cross schemes and calculations.

In order to ensure that the endeavor of the Red Cross Societies of the two sides to relieve the suffering of the displaced families bears good fruit, there should be faithfulness between them, and the agreements between the two parties should be respected. To hold the talks on the date agreed upon is the responsibility of our Red Cross officials who must highly value faithfulness and service, and is an obligation to be observed. From this standpoint, we have completed all the necessary preparations to hold and manage the talks satisfactorily, and are looking forward to the day we meet your side, as host for the eighth North-South Red Cross talks.

If the delegation of your side comes to Seoul, our side will greet it warmly with compatriotic love, and will give it our utmost sincerity and kindness so that it may not feel any inconvenience during its 3-night, 4-day stay. If your side truly intends to help the North-South Red Cross talks progress, remaining faithful to a humanitarian spirit and respecting the agreements between the two parties, you ought not to find fault with matters irrelevant to the talks, but come to the 23 January Seoul talks as promised.

I hope that the delegation of your side will come to Seoul as scheduled so that the precious opportunity which has been made possible at long last may not escape our nation.

10 January 1985, Yu Chang-sun, president of the ROK Red Cross Society.

EDITORIAL EXAMINES GENEVA ARMS TALKS RESULTS

SK110247 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 11 Jan 85 p 4

[Editorial: "Geneva Arms Control Talks"]

[Text] It was as much as we expected that the Geneva talks between the United States and the Soviet Union produced only an agreement to resume negotiations for control of nuclear and strategic arms following a lapse of 13 months. A beginning was made in a new dialogue between the two superpowers after four years of frost relations.

Whether the meeting of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko held early this week will usher in a new era of detente remains in question. At least, however, ice was broken for verbal exchange to seek an agreement on how to manage the ultimate weapon.

Following two days of intense and often rocky talks the two said they agreed to begin new talks aimed at preventing an arms race in space and terminating it on earth, leaving the date and site for the negotiations to be set within a month.

U.S. President Ronald Reagan told the world yesterday that Washington will be flexible, patient and determined in resumed disarmament talks, while warning that his administration will continue to resist Soviet actions threatening the freedom of the United States or its allies.

It means that Washington will push ahead with its research of a nuclear space defense popularly dubbed the "Star Wars" plan. If developed, he said, it would be a more moral deterrent to war than mutually assured destruction because it looks for a system that destroys weapons, not people.

Reagan expressed his readiness for a summit meeting with Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko in search for detente although in the past this had been something of a one-way street. He said 1985 ought to be a year of dialogue and negotiations, leading to better East-West relations. No preconditions were set for the talks despite profound differences between Washington and Moscow.

Sharp differences in outlook centered on the U.S. preoccupation with President Reagan's \$26 billion space research program to devise an antiballistic missile system and testing of antiballistic weapons. The United States wants to concentrate on curbing "offensive" nuclear arms the Soviets have been deploying in Eastern Europe and the Far East.

Moscow desires to halt the U.S. space defense initiatives, while being reluctant to reduce its offensive nuclear arsenal. Under the circumstances, it is reasonable for Washington not to bargain away its space missile defense program in the absence of a significant Russian move to reciprocate and assure nuclear parity and reduction.

The two superpowers have not discussed nuclear disarmament for more than a year since the Soviet Union withdrew from the strategic arms reduction talks -- START and INF Euromissile negotiations. The Geneva meeting, therefore, was a major step forward.

The fierce nuclear arms race involves both great costs and grave risks on the part of both the United States and the Soviet Union. The Reagan administration is under pressure to cut down on its defense spending. Moscow will have to go a long way to catch up with the United States in the space war technology.

Thus, the need is clear and present that the two superpowers should do away with the costly arms race if possible. As President Reagan pointed out, however, any future arms control must be a two-way affair and fully verifiable. Mere wishful thinking and one-sided restraint would be disastrous.

No nation desires the balance of terror to sustain a precarious world peace by means of nuclear arms. For want of a better alternative it is inevitable for the present and near future. Departure of Moscow from its policy of a vigorous arms buildup is essential to increase chances of international stability through arms control.

NKDP ACCEPTS FORMER PAK CHONG-HUI FOLLOWERS

SK110231 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 11 Jan 85 p 4

[From the "Press Pocket" column]

[Text] Taejon -- In response to the criticism that the New Korea Democratic Party chose some prominent participants of the Pak Chong-hui government, a top leader of the NKDP said, "We accepted them because they showed a clear-cut will to fight for democracy." Another reason was that the new party did not have enough time, Yi Min-u, chairman of the party creation Preparatory Committee, explained in a press conference here.

The foundation of the party has been promoted since early last month by former faction leaders of the defunct New Democratic Party, who were allowed to resume political activities Nov. 30 last year. The party has not selected its representative leader because of conflicting positions among the faction bosses. Some argue that the leading offices should be evenly distributed in the form of a collective leadership.

Yi, one of the possible candidates, expressed the hope that the new party would be led by one man. He said, "I think that complicated things should be avoided." He said that the issue would be decided before the formal organization of the new party next Friday.

The new party is a mixture of members of the Council for Promotion of Democracy and followers of former NDP leaders. The CPD supports Yi, while other leaders prefer the collective leadership. At present, the CPD dominates the decision-making procedures of the new party by holding such important posts as chairman of a special committee in charge of naming candidates.

NKDP LEADER ON DIRECT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

SK110228 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 11 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] Taejon (YONHAP) -- Yi Min-u, chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the founding of a new political group, tentatively named the New Korea Democratic Party (NKDP), yesterday called for electing a president through direct popular voting. In a news conference at a hotel here, he said that under the current presidential election system, it is impossible for the nation to achieve a peaceful transfer of power. "We call upon the present government to change the system to ensure peaceful power transfer and to meet the people's wishes," he said.

He was visiting here to attend a rally to organize an NKDP chapter. The new party is being formed mostly by former lawmakers of the now-defunct opposition New Democratic Party (NDP) who were once banned from politics.

A former NDP senior official, Yi regards the upcoming National Assembly election as an important event which will decide whether the country can restore democracy. "To ensure a fair and clear election, the government should discontinue pork barrel projects and government officials should stand neutral," he said. He described the parliamentary election, now expected in mid-February, as an "election in a frozen land," a reference to the cold weather of the month.

Yi, one of 84 old-time politicians allowed to resume political activity in the third lifting of a political ban last Nov. 30, renewed his group's call for holding the election in March.

KPNLF FIGHTERS COUNTERATTACK SRV FORCES AT AMPIL

BK101J09 Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 10 Jan 85 p 32

[Text] Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) fighters today staged a counter attack on Vietnamese troops holding two thirds of the Ampil camp, a KPNLF source told the BANGKOK WORLD this morning.

The surprise attack by the KPNLF resistance forces who begin to adopt guerrilla warfare tactics came at first light and the fighting was described as firing at each other while they were only a few hundred metres apart. The source said the sporadic gunfire with small firearms was started at 5 p.m. and continued through the night. He declined to say about the result of the counter attack.

Meanwhile, a field report said that Vietnam had mobilized more troops from its E16 regiment to Ampil, increasing the number of Vietnamese troops engaged in the battles at Ampil, Nong Samet and Nong Chan to some 5,000 persons. Meanwhile, Thai troops began to raise the national flag to mark the borderline which runs through the camp. However, one field report said that a problem occurred at Bridge 3 at Ban Sa-ngae as some Vietnamese troops were still inside Thai soil although Thai soldiers had tried to ask them to leave. Vietnamese officers reportedly rejected a Thai demand that they pull troops from Thai territory back into Kampuchea, Thai military sources said.

In a brief meeting starting at 9 a.m. at the bridge between the Ampil camp and Ban Sa-ngae, Thai Army officers asked the Vietnamese to move behind the frontier. The area in question was several hundred metres between the Ampil camp boundary and an antitank ditch dug by the Thais on their territory. Deputy commander of Burapha Field Forces, Col Chettha Thancharo rushed to the scene to follow up on the results of the negotiations which were still under way at press time. Col Chettha told reporters later in Aranyaprathet that Thailand might have to use force to push the intruders back. A reporter at the border said that more Thai troops had been sent to the border in Ta Phraya and they had been told to be on alert. Meanwhile, the military this morning evacuated some 23,000 refugees from Sites 1 and 2 to a safer area inside Thailand as there was an indication that they would be a target for Vietnamese shelling. In Buriram Province, military sources said that Vietnamese troops were still digging in inside Thai territory near O Bok. The situation remained tense as Thai soldiers were prepared to repel them.

ASSEMBLY MEETS AS PEOPLE SCORE 'GREAT SUCCESS'

BK110855 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1127 GMT 10 Jan 85

["People" -- SPK headline]

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 10 -- The National Assembly of the People's Republic of Kampuchea held its eighth session at a moment when the Kampuchean people are obtaining great success in all fields.

In economic construction, in spite of successive natural calamities, the peasants in 1984 successfully overcome many difficulties and ensuring their life. [sentence as received] Progress in small industry and handicrafts was more remarkable than in 1983, and good results were obtained in transport, communications, health, education, culture, and other activities.

To these successes were added successive military victories by the Kampuchean Revolutionary Army in wiping out a series of enemy hideouts along the western border, notably in the provinces of Pursat, Battambang and Preah Vihear. Moreover, the number of misled people rallying to the revolution went up many times compared with 1983.

While the Kampuchean people were scoring great success in the military and diplomatic areas the enemy was weakening more and more. His disintegration and isolation became more manifest before his complete collapse.

In welcoming the present session of the National Assembly, the entire Kampuchean people and their Armed Forces are determined to incessantly promote the national economy and increase the forces of revolution. They are ready to fulfill any tasks entrusted by the party and the state, and pledge to redouble their vigilance to cope with perfidious moves of the enemy while strengthening national unity and international solidarity, above all with Vietnam, Laos, the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries.

C ea Sim's Opening Speech

BK110549 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 10 Jan 85

[Opening speech by Chea Sim, member of the KPRP Central Committee Political Bureau, chairman of the National Assembly and of the KUFNCD National Council, and Assembly member from Prey Veng Province, at 10 January opening session of the National Assembly -- recorded]

[Text] On behalf of the PRK National Assembly, I am very happy to extend warmest salutations to members of the National Assembly, clergymen, representatives of the diplomatic corps, and all comrades and friends who are attending the eighth session of the PRK's First National Assembly.

This session is taking place at a time when our people throughout the country are making active contributions to the two strategic tasks of defending and building the Cambodian fatherland, thus making it advance gradually through a transitional period toward socialism. The PRK National Assembly would like to express its most sincere and profound gratitude to the fraternal socialist countries and various international organizations for their precious and timely aid given to our Cambodian people who have suffered from natural disasters -- floods and drought.

Dear members of the Presidium; beloved comrades and friends: During this session, the National Assembly will hear a report on the activities of the Council of State, a report on activities of the National Assembly during the period between the seventh and eighth sessions, a report on the implementation of the economic tasks in 1984, a report on targets for the 1985 economic and social plan, a report on the activities of the Council of Ministers, a report on financial management by the Finance Ministry, a report by the National Assembly Committee, a report by the committee in charge of persuading misled persons to desert enemy ranks, and the resolution dated November 1984 of the national meeting of party cadres on the economy of the private production sector, peasants, and ethnic minorities.

As is known to all, our revolution has advanced constantly and our people's livelihood has been stabilized, and our people have become more confident in the correct leadership of our KPRP. Our valiant people have therefore strived to surmount all difficulties, fulfilled all their noble tasks, and joined in the national defense task by sacrificing everything for the survival of our nation. Through this lofty spirit of sacrifice and firm will, our people have successfully fulfilled the 1984 national defense labor plan. They are carrying on this plan. Another noteworthy point is that larger numbers of misled persons have repented and returned to live with our revolution and their families.

The PRK National Assembly warmly hails the brilliant victories won by the KPRAF, security forces, and people who have closely cooperated with the Vietnamese Army volunteers in launching sweeping operations against the Pol Pot bandits and other Cambodian reactionaries along the Thai border, particularly in the current dry season.
[applause]

The PRK National Assembly warmly commends all the achievements in the diplomatic field made after Comrade Hun Sen's visits to Africa, Sweden, and France.

The PRK National Assembly condemns the war of aggression against the SRV by the Beijing ruling circles and the aggression against and the violation of Laos' sovereignty and territorial integrity committed by the ultrarightist reactionaries in the Thai ruling circles.

The PRK National Assembly voices full support for the Soviet Union's peace initiatives, the proposals made at the summit meeting of the Warsaw Pact countries' Political Consultative Committee, the statement of the CEMA member countries' summit meeting, the Soviet government's proposals made at the 39th UN General Assembly session by Comrade Gromyko, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and minister of foreign affairs, new proposals made by Comrade Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and all other efforts made by the Soviet Union which have become an effective weapon in ensuring detente, reducing nuclear arms, saving mankind from a global war of destruction and space war, and for safeguarding international security and long-lasting peace in the world.

The PRK National Assembly strongly condemns the cowardly terrorist act which caused the death of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi -- the splendid friend of the PRK.

Beloved comrades and friends, the victories we have won during the past 6 years are big, but the future tasks of our nation and people are very heavy. Therefore, it is necessary for all our combined forces to unite as one under the banners of the party, state, and front in order to strive for greater victories in defending and building our beloved Cambodian fatherland. I now announce the opening of the eighth session of the First National Assembly legislature. I wish our eighth session success. [applause]

Reportage on Second Day

BK110528 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 11 Jan 85

[Text] At 0700 on 11 January, at the National Assembly building, the PRK National Assembly's eighth session resumed its work in accordance with the planned agenda.

On the morning of this second day of the session, the National Assembly listened to the report by Heng Samrin, general secretary of the party Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State, on the Council of State's proposal to the National Assembly on the selection of the Council of Ministers' chairman. On behalf of the Council of State, Comrade General Secretary Heng Samrin introduced names of candidates for the post of chairman of the Council of Ministers to the National Assembly members for discussion and elections on the last day of the session.

Afterward, the audience listened to the resolutions of the national meeting of cadres in November 1984 on the policies toward peasants and ethnic minorities and the private economy and production. Then, the National Assembly carefully followed the report by the Commission for Culture and Social Affairs on the commission's activities between the seventh and eighth sessions. The National Assembly also listened to the report by the Economic and Budget Commission on its activities between the seventh and the eighth sessions of the Assembly and heard the draft resolutions on the targets for economic and social tasks for 1985, the draft resolution of the balance of the state budget for 1983, the draft resolution on the implementation of financial affairs and the state budget for 1984, and the targets and plan of the 1985 state budget. The National Assembly also listened to the draft resolution expressing support for the policy toward peasants and ethnic minorities and the private economy and production adopted by the national meeting of cadres in November 1984. The National Assembly adjourned at 1000 and will resume this afternoon.

Reports Given

BK101458 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 10 Jan 85

[Text] At 1400 on 10 January, the PRK National Assembly's eighth session continued its work in accordance with the agenda. In the afternoon of this first day, the assembly listened attentively to the report on the situation of the implementation of economic and social tasks in 1984 and the targets of the economic tasks for 1985 read by Comrade Chea Soth, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and planning minister; and the report on the situation of the implementation of financial tasks, the 1984 budget, and the targets and financial tasks for 1985 read by Comrade Chan Phin, member of the party Central Committee Secretariat and finance minister. At 1700, the National Assembly adjourned and will resume work tomorrow, 11 January.

Documents Prepared

BK111142 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1100 GMT 11 Jan 85

[Text] On the afternoon of 11 January, members of the National Assembly took time off to examine and prepare documents to be presented to the meeting in the coming days. The assembly members also paid special attention to all the draft resolutions proposed to the meeting this morning for examination and adoption. Apart from this, on the afternoon of this second day the National Assembly examined the character of candidates for the post of chairman of the Council of Ministers introduced by Comrade General Secretary Heng Samrin to the Assembly for proper selection on the last day of the session.

EDITORIAL MARKS 7 JAN VICTORY ANNIVERSARY

BK080740 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 6 Jan 85

[Station editorial: "Always Hold Aloft the 7 January Spirit"]

[Text] The historic victory on 7 January 1979 is of most profound and noble significance because it enabled our Cambodia fatherland and nation to be reborn. Today is the 6th anniversary of the 7 January victory. The Cambodian people of all nationalities throughout the country mark this grand anniversary with great joy and pride over their past achievements. They are holding aloft the spirit of this historic victory in order to advance toward greater victories in the cause of defending and building the Cambodian fatherland, thus making it advance on the path of socialism. The past 6 years were marked by success in the struggle for national defense and reconstruction. The achievements we accomplished in all fields in the past 6 years are immense compared to the great destruction left behind by the feudalists and reactionaries of all stripes, especially the genocidal Pol Pot-Ieng Sary-Khieu Samphan clique -- lackey of the Beijing hegemonist-expansionists. Under the wise leadership of the KPRP, the genuine Marxist-Leninist party which has correct and clear-sighted domestic and foreign policies, the Cambodian people who survived the massacre by the traitorous Pol Pot clique have held aloft the 7 January spirit and the two banners of patriotism and proletarian internationalism, mobilized their forces of great union, and struggled day and night to defend and rebuild the country with the sincere support and assistance of the fraternal socialist countries, particularly Vietnam, Laos, and the Soviet Union, and successfully fulfill all targets, thus enabling our young PRK to grow firmly and rapidly with strong power and capabilities to gradually manage the national defense and reconstruction and ensure the people's right to mastery. The great victories we have scored in the political, military, economic, social, and diplomatic fields during the past 6 years have made our people more proud of and confident in the party's leadership and their own great strength. The victories won in 1984 are immense.

These victories attest to the high spirit of perseverance and sharp will to fight of our cadres, party members, combatants, workers, peasants, intellectuals, students, monks, and ethnic nationalities in all localities and units throughout the country who have made every effort in carrying out their tasks and implementing the resolution of the fourth congress of the party Central Committee, stimulated the three revolutionary movements, and succeeded in carrying out all revolutionary tasks. In combat, we successfully overfulfilled the Army buildup plan both in terms of quantity and quality. The people have enthusiastically joined in the movement to combat the enemy and the national defense task. We were able to halt all perfidious maneuvers of the enemy aimed at sabotaging our people's peaceful life and at seizing a number of positions in the provinces adjacent to the Thai border for use as political props. All enemy's activities have been smashed by our Armed Forces and people in close cooperation with the Vietnamese Army volunteers. We smashed both the enemy plans and its main bases in various areas. We recently swept the hideouts along the border and took full control of the battlefield, leaving the enemy desperate and shattered. At the same time, thousands of enemy forces, both the rank and file and their commanders, have repented, deserted, and fled with their weapons to join our revolution. The number of this year's returnees is double that in 1983. In industrial and handicraft production, this year we produced enough goods to meet the people's demand. As for agriculture, despite widespread drought and flood, in the 1983-84 period our people fulfilled 122 percent of the plan to sell rice to the state. We produced over 1.2 million hectares of rainy season rice, and are striving to grow enough dry season rice to fulfill the production plan of 168,200 hectares. We have been able to record these achievements because our revolutionary forces have developed vigorously, have had a high sense of responsibility for their tasks, mastered the guidance and control work in localities, and have been skillful in combating the enemy and carrying out the production drive.

In the political and diplomatic fields, aside from establishing bonds of friendship and cooperation among the Indochinese countries and with the fraternal socialist countries, Comrade Hun Sen's visits to countries in Africa and Europe were marked with brilliant success. In Africa, we have established diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level with Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau, Benin, and Cape Verde; consolidated relations in various fields between our people and the African people; and explained the real situation in Cambodia and the Cambodian people's wishes to public opinion in Sweden and France where full support was expressed for our good will.

In the past year we broadened our mastery. Although another batch of Vietnamese Army volunteers was pulled home for the third time and the enemies intensified their perfidious maneuvers, our Armed Forces and people successfully broadened their mastery and in close cooperation with the Vietnamese Army volunteers attacked and inflicted heavy defeats on the enemies on all battlefields. The more the enemies intensified their activities, the greater the defeats they suffered. Despite these great defeats in the political and military fields and serious internal rifts, the enemies have not abandoned their perfidious maneuvers. They have pursued the dark design to recapture their lost positions and to sabotage our people's peaceful life. Confronting the enemies' perfidious maneuvers, and on this occasion of the 6th anniversary of our 7 January National Day, we pledge always to uphold the 7 January spirit; strengthen our will to fight and win unite more firmly under the party banner; consolidate our solidarity and cooperation with the friendly socialist countries and the progressive, peace- and justice-loving peoples in the world, particularly Vietnam, Laos, and the Soviet Union; and carry on our struggle against the enemies and for the building of our beloved fatherland toward socialism. Especially in 1985, we pledge to increase our unity, our will to fight and to win, and our sense of mastery and self-help. First of all, with a lofty sense of responsibility, we must implement a number of essential tasks set forth by the first national meeting of party cadres as follows:

1. Use the combined forces so as to ensure the successful completion of the tasks to combat the enemies in the current dry season; master combat tactics, actively attack the enemies, and attack the reactionaries who have penetrated our territory and border.

2. Broadly stimulate the mass movement and promote the movement to persuade enemy soldiers to return to the fold.

3. Effectively organize the national defense labor work sites.

4. Effectively carry out the tasks to take care of and harvest the rainy season rice and stimulate the production of dry season rice.

5. Strive to fulfill the targets for industrial, handicraft, and agricultural production. In particular, Phnom Penh capital must effectively carry out the KPRP Central Committee Secretariat's resolution on restoration, increase, and production of consumer goods to meet the people's needs.

6. Pay attention to the material and moral livelihood of the people in all areas, particularly those affected by natural disasters. Pay particular attention to families of the combatants and workers who are carrying out the national defense task. Successfully implement the policy on taking good care of those in the rear. The entire party, Army, and people should uphold the 7 January victory spirit and emulate in carrying out the tasks mentioned above so as to seize greater victories in accordance with the targets set by the party and state. By so doing, our fatherland will advance steadily as planned.

KPRAF KILL 160 POL POT MEN IN CHOAM KHSAN

BK081248 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1200 GMT 8 Jan 85

[Text] To contribute to the celebration of the historic victory day of 7 January, our Revolutionary Armed Forces recently made an all-out effort -- with brilliant success -- to smash a lair of the Pol Pot bandits. In fact, in early December 1984, grasping the maneuver of the Pol Pot bandits -- who surreptitiously crossed the border from Thailand and set up a temporary shelter at Phnum Kambot, north of Choam Khsan, to facilitate their infiltration, looting, and proselytizing activities to win the people's support for their schemes -- a part of the Bar Brigade, in close cooperation with Vietnamese volunteers, surrounded the enemy lair. Some 160 enemy soldiers were killed on the spot and 12 others were captured. Our forces seized 362 assorted guns, 13,300 rounds of assorted ammunition, 2 metric tons of medicine, and some other war materiel.

CHEA SIM SENDS GREETINGS TO CUBAN COUNTERPART

BK081608 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1115 GMT 8 Jan 85

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 8 -- Chea Sim, chairman of the National Assembly of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, has sent a message of greetings to his Cuban counterpart, Flavio Bravo Pardo, on the occasion of the 26th national day of the People's Republic of Cuba.

The message praises the brilliant successes recorded by the valiant Cuban people, over the past 26 years, under the clear-sighted leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba, in the defence and construction of their socialist fatherland, particularly in foiling all U.S. imperialist maneuvers. It continues: "The Kampuchean people greatly rejoiced at their fraternal Cuban people's successes and considered them their own. The Kampuchean people expressed their warmest feelings and sincere gratitude to the party, the government and the people of Cuba for their assistance to and support, in the pure spirit of proletarian internationalism, for the just cause of the Kampuchean revolution. May the friendship, solidarity and cooperation between our two National Assemblies and our two countries strengthen and develop with every passing day for the well being of our two peoples and for peace and stability in the world."

LE FIGARO REPORTER INTERVIEWS PHOUMI VONGVICHIT

BK080616 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 5 Jan 85

[12 December interview with Phoumi Vongvichit, vice chairman of LPDR Council of Ministers, by French LE FIGARO correspondent Francois Nivolon -- read by announcer]

[Text] Question one: The evolution of the general situation in Laos.

Answer: Laos is a small country with a small population and a backward economy. It was a colony of the old and new colonialists for over a century and passed through over 30 years of fierce and complicated wars of aggression, which resulted in serious sabotage and destruction. On 2 December 1975, the Lao people liberated themselves and the country became completely independent, and was named the LPDR. Since then, the Lao people, under the LPRP's leadership, have built their country in all fields.

In national defense, they have closely strengthened the solidarity of all nationalities and tribes in the resistance against the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen who, although already defeated, still want to return in order to dominate, oppress, and intimidate the Lao people. The U.S. imperialists have colluded with the Beijing big-nation expansionists and hegemonists and the reactionaries in the Thai ruling circles in carrying out military threats and provocations along the Lao-Chinese and the Lao-Thai borders. Reactionaries in the Thai ruling circles have mobilized their troops to attack the seize three Lao villages in Sayaboury Province, thus seriously disrupting the long-standing friendship between Laos and Thailand. However, the Lao people -- who cherish peace and justice and want to preserve mutual cooperation -- have resorted to all peaceful means to have the Thai reactionaries withdraw from the aforesaid three villages. Recently, however, the Thai reactionaries stationed their troops in the forests and occupying some hilltops in Lao territory, from where they carried out acts threatening the security of the three villages and causing troubles to the local people in their daily life. More than 1,000 Lao citizens who were forcibly herded to Thai soil by the Thai reactionaries have not yet been allowed to return to their native villages to earn their living as usual. Property and domestic animals of the people of the three villages which were damaged, slaughtered, or taken by the Thai reactionaries to Thai territory, have not yet been compensated for or returned to Laos.

The Lao Government has, therefore, proposed to the Thai side to resume talks -- which were broken off by the Thai side -- in order to settle all problems through peaceful means. However, despite strong pressure by peace- and justice-loving public opinion in the world and in Thailand itself, the reactionaries in the Thai ruling circles continue to reject the Lao side's proposal for talks and have refused to recognize Lao sovereignty over the three villages. They have refused to allow Lao citizens, who they herded to Thailand, to return to their native villages. They have also refused to pay compensation to the Lao people of the three villages for the losses inflicted upon them. This is why the situation along the Lao-Thai border continues to remain tense.

In the economic field, since 2 December 1975, the Lao Government has concentrated its efforts on crop planting, livestock breeding, and gradually restoring handicraft work, which has destroyed by the capitalists and imperialists over 30 years of fierce and protracted war. Since 1980, rice production has reached more than 1 million metric tons per year and has met the needs of the entire Lao people of all tribes. The number of cattle and animals of other types, which were completely destroyed by the capitalists and imperialists over 30 years of aggressive war in four-fifths of Lao territory, has now increased to meet the requirements in draft power for the Lao farmers throughout the country.

Industrial factories left behind by the Lao reactionaries have now been repaired and have resumed production. Many new factories also have been set up to meet the requirements for consumer goods among the Lao people.

If the reactionaries in the Thai and Chinese ruling circles had not caused a tense situation along the borders, the Lao people would have built their national economy and strengthened Lao-Thai and Lao-Chinese love and solidarity as in the past.

Question two: The development of the political situation in the country.

Answer: Laos is a small country, composed of people of many nationalities and tribes who have been subjected to attempts at discord by enemies for decades. The enemies have aggravated daily the internal conflicts. Since 2 December 1975, the LPDR Government, implementing the LPRP's policy of peace, friendship, and cooperation, has resorted to all the appropriate measures to do away with existing contradictions and to further consolidate and strengthen solidarity among all nationalities and tribes. Lao people of all nationalities and tribes are industrious people who have unitedly and sincerely joined in combating nature in order to build a collective economy, and have achieved satisfactory success.

When invaded, Lao people of all tribes united closely and struggled against the enemy aggressors, thereby systematically achieving victories. At present, the Lao people have unitedly joined in building irrigation canals and reservoirs and in setting up agricultural cooperatives and settlements, which have been expanded with each passing day. They have also built roads to link all villages, and have reduced the destruction of forests while stepping up the planting of valuable trees to serve the people's requirements and to be exported to foreign countries.

In short, since 1975, Lao people throughout the country have enjoyed their new life and happiness and together have built their country to daily become more prosperous and civilized in all respects. The Lao people -- who have experienced sufferings resulting from the aggressive war staged by the capitalists and imperialists for over 30 years -- have come to clearly understand the value of peace, which they have earnestly needed in order to concentrate on building their country and to live in tranquility.

However, the entire Lao people are always ready to resist an aggressive war that might be waged by the reactionaries. The Lao people are well aware that to achieve victory, it is necessary to closely unite and maintain all-round cooperation with the peoples of Vietnam, Cambodia, the Soviet Union, and other fraternal socialist countries, and to positively unite and cooperate with people of all world countries, which have struggled for peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress.

Question three: The situation in the social and cultural field.

Answer: In 1975 -- the year when the Lao people established the LPDR -- 65 percent of Lao citizens were illiterate; the Lao society remained a neocolonialist society; problems of theft, pillage, gambling, prostitution, and hooliganism or hippies polluted areas formerly occupied by the enemy; and temples were used as places from which selfish, disloyal people carried out activities to earn their living. At that time, everyone cherished money and did everything possible, no matter how wicked and brazen it was, just to gain it.

Cultivation, handicrafts, and fine national traditions and customs were disregarded and destroyed by the capitalists and imperialists who introduced a bewildering and luxurious way of life into Laos, and carried out illicit trading activities in this country.

Since 1975, the LPDR Government has concentrated all its efforts on eradicating illiteracy and raising to an ever higher level the educational knowledge of people of all tribes. All the social problems mentioned above have been gradually eliminated following the educational and training courses provided for those misled people who have come to be aware of themselves and have voluntarily built and trained themselves. These people also have been sent to the reeducation center of Don Thao-Don Nang at the artificial lake built at the Nam Ngum dam. As for those who committed grievous mistakes against the nation and serious crimes against the people, they were put on trial.

Now, after 9 years, Lao society throughout the country has become sound and safe. Fine traditions and customs have been restored. All vile social practices -- theft, pillage, gambling, and hippies becoming addicted to liquor or heroin -- have completely disappeared. Illiteracy has been eradicated throughout the country. People of all tribes now competitively study to complete the primary, secondary, and senior high school levels. Superstitions and other useless and luxurious ways of life have been gradually uprooted and replaced by the fine and bright customs of the Lao nation, which have been developing in conformity with the process of the world civilization. People in both urban and rural areas now enjoy cleanliness and joy. Throughout our Lao country, traditional and modern songs and music can be heard calling on the Lao people to unite and together struggle against the enemy aggressors and to build a prosperous country and a prosperous and plentiful life.

Question four: Have the various reeducation centers been closed down?

Answer: Reeducation centers are the places where those who were misled into being intoxicated with the old and neocolonialist society by the enemy psychological warfare have been trained to return to becoming genuine Lao citizens who practice the fine traditions and customs of Laos. This is because the training of people toward an adverse way of life, as led by the old and new colonialists, is of great danger to society. It also serves as a habit-forming drug, which has made certain Lao citizens forget their own nationality, forget their fine traditions and customs, and forget that it is necessary for the small Lao population to love each other and unite in order to become a strong force to build the country to advance along the path of happiness and prosperity. The seminar center is a school where training is provided for those who took a wrong turn in life in accordance with instructions of the capitalists and imperialists, who for a century led and trained people to become anti-national and antipopular. At the center, those misled people are trained to regain their conscience, cherish the country, and come to understand that they are Lao citizens who should be ready to contribute to building a prosperous and civilized Laos.

This school, like other primary, secondary, and senior high schools or universities of all other countries, is opened when there are students and closed when the students graduate. It could not be either opened or closed permanently.

I have spoken of this matter to journalists of many countries and hope that all those who have a right mind would understand correctly that all what we have done is for the benefit of the Lao people and nation. I am also convinced that other countries which aspire to progress and civilization would do the same.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, Francois Nivolon, for being interested in the Lao situation and wishing to see us build Laos into a prosperous and civilized country to keep peace with other countries. I would like to ask you to publicize the information about Laos I have presented to you today to explain to those who live far away from Laos and who do not understand the true situation here to come to understand the real situation in our country. I also ask you to explain the matter correctly in accordance with what I have told you today.

I wish the French people, who cherish peace, national independence, democracy, unification, and social progress, successes in performing their noble tasks. May the solidarity between the peoples of Laos and France be strengthened and developed with each passing day!

PROTEST NOTE LODGED WITH UN OVER THAI SHELLING

BK111319 Vientiane KPL in English 0858 GMT 11 Jan 85

[Text] Vientiane, January 11 (KPL) -- Kithong Vongsai, UN permanent representative of the Lao PDR, on January 8, lodged a protest to the chairman of the Security Council. The protest note dealt with the fresh Thai troops' attack against the surrounding of the three Lao border hamlets of Mai, Kang and Savang, in Sayaboury Province.

The protest note read, on January 2 and 3, the Thai troops shelled the vicinity of the three hamlets at the Huat hilltop, Kieu Nok Seo, Mai Noi and Poung Hamlets. The heavy artillery shellings, occurred after the announcement to withdraw Thai troops made by the Thai foreign minister at the 39th UN General Assembly, had caused damages to the Lao people. The Lao PDR once again reaffirms the constant stance on the defence of its sovereignty and territorial integrity, and stands ready, on the other hand, to resume bilateral talks in Bangkok as proposed by the Lao foreign minister to his Thai counterpart.

The note underlined that the Thai side must immediately stop its aggressive activities against Laos, completely withdraw its troops from the Lao territory, release all abducted Lao people, compensate for the damage inflicted upon the local people by Thai troops, strictly respect the Lao sovereignty and territorial integrity in order to normalize the situation as prior to June 6, 1984. Otherwise, the Thai side should bear all adverse consequences.

JET FIGHTER DOWNED BY VIETNAMESE SAM-7 MISSILE

BK110416 Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 11 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] Buriram -- Vietnamese forces yesterday fired a surface-to-air missile at a Thai jetfighter escorting a delegation of senior Army officials, including Supreme Commander Gen Athit Kamlang-ek, during its visit to a border area here. Sources said the SAM-7 exploded mid-air but did not hit the F-5 aircraft. Gen Athit was later informed of the incident which happened while he was visiting Army units in border areas in Ban Kruat District. Gen Athit was told by the pilot who survived when an A-37 jetfighter was shot down here on Tuesday that the plane was hit by a SAM-7 fired by the Vietnamese from a valley on the Thai-Kampuchean border. Sqd Leader Akhom Kanchanahiran told Gen Athit that an aerial photo taken by another Thai aircraft supported what he said. Gen Athit yesterday visited Army units at Ban Kruat District here.

Two A-37 jetfighters of the Air Force based in Ubon Ratchathani were on a mission to support ground troops attempting to push back Vietnamese intruders at O Bok pass in Ban Kruat District when one of them was hit by a SAM-7. One of the two pilots was missing.

Gen Athit said Thai forces now have complete control of the border areas at O Bok pass. A Unit of Vietnamese forces crossed the border into Thai territory at O Bok last Friday and clashed with Thai troops. Thailand has lodged a protest with the UN over both the shooting down of the plane and the incursion. Gen Athit yesterday also visited border areas in Nam Yun District in Ubon Ratchathani and was told that all Vietnamese intruders have been pushed back.

BOYCOTT OF HANOI MEKONG COMMITTEE MEETING

BK110535 Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 11 Jan 85

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has announced that a Thai delegation is not attending the United Nations-sponsored meeting of the Interim Mekong Committee, the opening of which was scheduled for yesterday in Hanoi. The ministry said that Secretary General of the National Energy Administration Praphat Premmani, chief of the Thai delegation, has informed Mr Galal Magdi, executive agent of the Interim Mekong Committee, that the move is in protest at the recent Vietnamese action near the Thai-Kampuchean border. The ministry cited as a reason that Vietnam recently violated Thailand's sovereignty and killed many Thai soldiers near the Thai-Kampuchean border where Vietnamese troops are launching a fierce offensive against the Kampuchean resistance movement. Such action seriously discouraged the long-established spirit of cooperation in the Interim Mekong Committee. The week-long meeting is to discuss an integrated development of the resources of Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam through which the Mekong River flows.

SIX TOP GENERALS TO RETIRE; CANDIDATES LISTED

BK071312 Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 7 Jan 85 p 6

[By "Political Periscope": "Big Changes Ahead Within the Army"]

[Text] The forthcoming military mid-year reshuffle [in April] may pave the way for major changes in the top hierarchy of the Army since as many as six full generals will be retired in October this year. Preparations to fill the many key positions must have been arranged in advance.

Among the retired generals three are from the Supreme Command, including Gen Athit Kamlang-ek, supreme commander and the Army chief, whose proposed extension of his tenure seems unlikely to materialise. Two other Supreme Command generals due for retirement are Deputy Supreme Commander Gen Bunrit Thanthanon, and Supreme Command Chief of Staff Gen Pathom Soemsin.

The other three top Army generals who will be 60 this year are Deputy Army Chief Gen Thianchai Sirisamphan and two Army assistant chiefs Gen Ong-at Suphamat and Gen Mana Ratanakoset.

Following the retirement of the above six Army generals, current Army Chief of Staff Gen Bunchop Bunnak, who has one more year left in office will be the most senior in the Army. He is expected to be promoted either to be Army Chief or the Supreme Commander in this annual reshuffle.

There is some speculation that the Supreme Commander post may go to the current Air Force Commander Air Chief Marshal Praphan Thupatemi, since he would be the most senior commander if Gen Athit fails to extend his tenure by another year. But according to the past record this position, considered primarily to be a ceremonial one, usually will be judged in the political context rather than any fixed qualification.

If Gen Banchop was to be appointed Supreme Commander this October, it would pave the way for Big Chiu [Lt Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut], currently Army deputy chief of staff, to have a big jump into the top Army slot, since he would become the most senior in the main stream of the Army command. Even if Gen Banchop was to be promoted to be Army chief, the future career of Big Chiu still looks very bright. Since he would certainly be elevated to Army chief of staff, and would only have to wait another year for Gen Banchop's retirement. Big Chiu will have another seven years in office. If he does not retire himself at the age of 55 as he has once said. If he keeps his promise he would be the only top Army in Thai history to volunteer to step down, after he reached the top post. Following the recent political crisis that turned the fate of a certain military top brass, Big Chiu became a rather lucky man. As recently as early last year he was attacked from leaflets which accused him and Pa Prem of being responsible for protests by students and university lecturers against the arrest of 20 communist suspects, in an attempt to discredit ranking military officers. During the whole political struggle, Big Chiu acted as liaison man between Pa and Gen Athit. He was reported to be most trusted by Pa, therefore his future was more or less tied with the fate of Pa. It was noted that Big Chiu was the only ranking military to receive the highest royal decoration of the Grand Cordon (Special Class) of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant, during the recent king's birthday ceremony. This can be considered very significant for his future career since it demonstrated the royal kindness extended to him which is an essential condition for any Army man aspiring for the top post.

It is a long-time speculation that Big Chiu and Big Sua [Lt Gen Phichit Kunlawanit] are the two top candidates to be the future Army chief. Following the end of the recent political crisis, Big Chiu now seems to have a better chance than his rival. Whether or not Big Sua remains on the competitive track for the post of Army chief, can be better forecast after the mid-year military reshuffle which usually takes place around April or May. If Big Sua is promoted to be either deputy Army chief or assistant Army chief, in addition to his current post as commander of the First Army Region, it would prove that he is still among the rising stars. However, Pa Prem would be the only retired general who will have a big say in the whole military reshuffle.

SITTHI DISCUSSES CAMBODIAN, LAO BORDER ISSUES

BK091150 Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai 3 Jan 85 pp 16-20

["Exclusive" interview with Thai Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila on 25 December]

[Excerpt] [Unidentified reporter] How is the Cambodian problem?

[Sitthi Sawetsila] As far as Thailand's security is concerned, when I first took my ministerial post almost 5 years ago, Vietnam was very strong and aggressive. It was a very important turning point. At that time, nobody dared say anything about Vietnam or criticize its military aggression against Cambodia.

I can say that I was the first person to come out and denounce the Vietnamese intrusion at Non Mak Mun. Vietnam in those days was capable of doing anything. Regarding the Cambodian problem, the Soviet Union has sent new weapons to the Vietnamese troops through Kompong Som. However, I do not think that Vietnam will be able to defeat the resistance forces, which are now much stronger than before. I am confident that the security along our border will not be affected. The Vietnamese troops cannot defeat the resistance factions. We can wait. The Vietnamese troops suffered much heavier casualties than the resistance forces during the current offensive against Sok San and Nong Chan encampments of the Son Sann faction. The resistance factions have high morale and more political support. There are a few more places the Vietnamese troops will attack, such as Ph'aong village and Ta Tum base of the Sihanouk faction.

I think Vietnam is now in a very difficult position. It is heavily in debt. Its debt to the Soviet Union alone is about \$4.5 billion. It is now receiving approximately \$1 billion annually of economic assistance from the Soviet Union and socialist countries and needs from \$600 to \$1,000 million for its war in Cambodia. Some 80 percent of its foreign trade is conducted with the Soviet Union, while China continues to apply pressure along its northern border. Vietnam is trying to normalize its relations with China, but China stands firm on the condition that Vietnamese troops must be withdrawn from Cambodia. I believe that the Vietnamese military operations during the coming summer will be more violent but will be unable to defeat the resistance factions.

[Reporter] Has there been any progress in dealing with the Thai-Lao border dispute"

[Sithi] Military confrontation cannot help resolve the border problem. Laos tried to drag the problem into the United Nations to discredit us. It criticized us during the meeting of the Nonaligned Movement, of which we are not a member, issued the white book, and distributed the French-made maps to all countries. It launched verbal attacks on us anywhere and any time it could. Our diplomats had to leave the Lao national day rally because of such criticism against us.

At present, we have no troops in the three disputed villages. This has been witnessed by mass media representatives we accompanied to inspect the area. However, Laos accuses us of keeping troops there. It invited Thai reporters to visit Pakse and the three villages. I have learned that four Thai reporters are now in Vientiane. We have border problems with Laos along the Mekong River and even in Surin Province. The drawing of the border line along the Mekong River was unfair to us. As a matter of fact, it was done by a big power. I do not want to mention its name. This is why we have problems in many areas. Mutual understanding is required for the negotiations on the demarcation line. Both sides must refrain from using the issue for propaganda purposes to divert international public opinion from the real cause of the problem -- the massacre of Cambodian people by Vietnamese troops just because the Cambodian people refuse to accept the Phnom Penh government. Stray shells fired from Soviet-made tanks and artillery pieces land on our soil while we are accused of being aggressive, which is untrue.

For this reason, we will not hold any talks with them unless the situation has improved. I told them that we have nothing to discuss with them at the present moment since we have already withdrawn troops from the three villages. Regarding their demand that we pay compensation for damage at the three villages, it was Lao troops which fired into their villages and forced them to pay tax. They caused the damage themselves and also provoked us. We are fully aware that this is their trick to drag us into a trap. They want to pretend there is no Cambodian problem, but only the Thai-Cambodian and Thai-Lao border disputes. If these border disputes were settled, Vietnam would withdraw troops from Cambodia. Well, this is not what we have in mind. The problem occurred 1 day after Nguyen Co Thach left the country on his way back from Australia. During his top-over, he refused to see me. Vietnam sent its troops into Thai soil through Phra Phalai Pass and occupied our territory for a long time. The incursion took place during the prime minister's tour of European countries last year. However, he was kept well informed about the situation.

[Reporter] Do you see any possible solutions for the Thai-Lao and Thai-Cambodian border problems?

[Sittithi] We have not closed the door. Mokhtar (Indonesian foreign minister) is going to visit Vietnam but he will not mention the problem unless Vietnam brings it up first. We know that Vietnam will propose talks on the problem, but not in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions. It will stick to its own way and conditions. We do not see any hope for a solution. All parties concerned must have a strong intention to resolve the problem. So far, I do not see any sign of their sincerity or determination to resolve the problem.

We do not want to waste our time as Thailand did in holding talks with Laos over the border dispute in the past. Laos came here for propaganda purposes. Even in its request for another round of talks with Thailand, Laos set three conditions: Thailand must accept that the three villages belong to Laos; Thailand must pay compensation for the damage at the three villages; Thailand must admit it has forced the natives of the three villages to leave their homes and agree to send them back to Laos. Why should there be any negotiations with such preconditions? If we agree to hold talks with Vietnam, the same thing that happened to Kissinger will happen to us. I have studied their background thoroughly. They are neither sincere nor have any intention to resolve the problem. No matter how patient Vietnam can be, it has its limit too. In the past, Vietnam received massive support from the general public for its struggle for national independence and unification. Now, however, no excuse can justify its military presence in Cambodia. It cannot say that its troops were invited into Cambodia to get rid of the evil Pol Pot regime. The Cambodian people are now fed up with Vietnam and are demanding that all Vietnamese troops be withdrawn. There is a point at which Vietnam will be isolated. Its economy will continue to go downhill. If it can tolerate that, let it. We should not allow this problem to overwhelm us. Let the Cambodian people handle it. Vietnam should hold talks with Sihanouk as the president of Cambodia because he has won recognition of 110 nations. When the situation is ripe, I believe that Cambodia will once again be a member of the free world bloc.

PRASONG ON MOVE TO REPATRIATE LAO REFUGEES

BK080113 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 Jan 85 p 3

[Text] Some 19,655 Laotians who entered Thailand illegally last year will be repatriated, National Security Council [NSC] Secretary-General Prasong Sunsiri told the BANGKOK POST yesterday. Squadron-Leader Prasong said on his return from a fact-finding trip to Nong Khai and Nakhon Phanom Provinces that this group of Laotians would not be recognized as refugees and that Laos did not seem to object to Thailand's plan to repatriate them. The NSC chief said he would soon invite representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to discuss the possibility of repatriating these illegal aliens. He said the number of illegal Laotian immigrants had increased significantly last year. Statistics showed that 3,527 Laotians had illegally entered Thailand between 1982-83. The figure rose sharply to 19,655 between January 1 and December 15 last year, he said. Sqn-Ldr Prasong said those interrogated by Thai authorities claimed that they fled to Thailand because they could no longer stand the hardships in Laos and that they wanted to be resettled in third countries. The NSC chief added that these illegal aliens had to be sent to Napho refugee camp in Nakhon Phanom as the refugee camp in Nong Khai could not cope with the influx.

As a result, the number of refugees at Napho camp -- previously recorded at 15,000 -- had increased to 33,000, he said. Sqn-Ldr Prasong said he had discussed with the authorities concerned to map out measures to interrogate these illegal Laotian immigrants individually and to separate them from those recognized officially as refugees.

He said all illegal Laotian immigrants -- except those who belonged to the Laotian royal family -- would be put under detention pending their repatriation. "The Laotian director-of political affairs has told the Thai ambassador that Laos would not object to the repatriation of these illegal Laotian immigrants," said the NSC chief.

SRV INCREASING VIETNAMESE SETTLERS IN LAOS

BK110945 Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 11 Jan 85 p 32

[Text] An increasing number of Vietnamese settlers have moved into Laos as Hanoi quietly pursues its "dream" of establishing a "federation of Indochinese states", according to a Thai Foreign Ministry white paper released today.

The 33-page document said the settlers had moved into villages far from the capital of Vientiane, causing "great hardships and creating resentment" among the local population as the Vietnamese enjoyed "special privileges". Most of the settlers were migrants from the north of Vietnam, with some of them soldiers and ex-Vietnamese refugees from Thailand, it added. Vietnam maintains some 30,000-40,000 troops in Laos, according to military estimates.

The white paper said Laotians notably resented the Vietnamese privilege to "choose where to live or travel" in their country. It gave no figure on the number of Vietnamese settlers, saying only they were moving in "in increasing numbers." Apart from this infiltration at the grass roots, Vietnam had also penetrated Laotian officialdom, it went on. Present at various government agencies, the Vietnamese "are not advisors per se, but they are the ones who take control and give orders," it said. Laotian officials who are pro-Vietnamese are promoted; those who are not face demotion or transfer, to be replaced by counterparts who are either pro-Vietnamese or of Vietnamese descent, it added.

The white paper attributed the continuing outflow of Laotian refugees to Thailand to the growing Vietnamese presence that made for bleak prospects and economic pressures. It said while most Laotian refugees who fled immediately after the communist takeover of Laos in 1975 were largely motivated by political reasons, later arrivals were forced out of their country by economic pressures like levies on small businesses and agricultural produce.

Those fleeing the landlocked Indochinese state "are mostly young people and government officials." The gap created by the outflow of the young population had been slowly filled by Vietnamese settlers, the white paper noted. With this trend, the national and indigenous characteristics of the Lao people as a race may eventually "completely disappear," it warned.

NHAN DAN VIEWS GRAIN PRODUCTION RESULTS

BK081529 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 24 Dec 84

[NHAN DAN 25 December editorial: "Accelerating Grain Production Is the Most Important Task"]

[Text] In recent years, despite the shortage of supplies and fuel and repeated natural calamities, our people have recorded a fairly high increase rate in grain output on the agricultural production front. This is a success of great significance in the economic, political, national defense, and social fields. It can be said that every kilogram of rice or meat [words indistinct] that are sustaining the life of our people today result from the very labor of our people and from the heroic struggle conducted by our Army and people [words indistinct] with a staunch revolutionary will and the spirit of self-reliance. This is a new national value of which we are proud.

In light of the resolution of the fifth party congress, the resolution of the party Central Committee's seventh plenum pointed out: In 1985, grain will continue to be the main factor deciding socioeconomic stability and development. All-out efforts must be made to attain an output of 19 million metric tons of grain in paddy equivalent. The main direction is to practice intensive cultivation, increase crop yields, and apply multicropping. At the same time, it is necessary to open additional areas for planting grain crops where conditions permit, and immediately apply intensive cultivation. It is also necessary to set up high-yield rice and subsidiary food crop areas, continue to develop water conservancy, and resolve the problem of draft power in order to increase the land usage coefficient, especially in Nam Bo.

All our party, Army, and people must concentrate their very best efforts on achieving at all costs the grain target set forth at the party Central Committee's seventh plenum. The grain issue has become a matter of national survival, and it must be resolved as befitting its importance in a positive and steady manner so that our people will have enough to eat and set aside a reserve. Our country stretches across 15 degrees latitude and consists of ecologically different regions. Each of these regions has its own strong points; but given the difficulties facing communication and transportation, each region and each locality must do its best to accelerate grain production. Localities that have failed to produce enough to eat must boost production to meet the need for consumption and have agricultural products for discharging their obligations toward the country, thus creating the momentum for developing their own strong points. Localities with a large quantity of marketable grain must strive to further step up production in order to have even more agricultural products for sale and delivery to the state.

In our people's life at present, grain accounts for the main part of the daily diet. Therefore, intensively accelerating production will greatly contribute to firmly resolving the people's food problem. In the grain structure, rice holds the most important position as it accounts for 80 percent of the total grain output and has a high nutritional value. The important measures now consist of tightly controlling the use of land put under grain, especially rice; creating conditions for carrying out multicropping or rice; and practicing intensive cultivation. Along with producing rice, efforts must be made simultaneously to step up the production of subsidiary food crops in order to further increase the food crop ratio by setting up concentrated food crop areas in the midland and mountainous provinces.

Food crops account for an important part of the total grain output. Being the main products of a number of areas, they are planted on suitable lands, and there still exists the possibility of expanding their cultivated acreage and applying intensive cultivation techniques. At the same time, efforts must be made to encourage food crop cultivation wherever possible.

Uniform and comprehensive policies and measures must be adopted for food crop areas covering all activities -- from seed preparation, planting, and harmful insect and disease prevention and control to harvesting, processing, maintenance, transportation, and consumption. We are capable of increasing the food crop output to contribute to resolving the people's food problem, obtain feed for livestock, and promote the processing industry. We must strive by all means to put an end to the continuous decrease in food crop production [words indistinct].

Along with accelerating grain productin in the Mekong River Delta even more actively by taking advantage of the local favorable conditions, efforts must be concentrated to the highest degree on rapidly increasing the grain output in the north, especially in the Red River Delta, in order to firmly resolve the grain problem and stabilize the people's life on a national scale.

In the past 4 years, grain production has followed the main direction of intensive cultivation as set forth by the fifth party congress. The more we practice intensive cultivation, the more we realize the great possibility of increasing the grain output by practicing intensive cultivation and multicropping. The average yield is only one-half of the progressive yield at the district level and even less at the cooperative level. Therefore, all localities must practice intensive cultivation [words indistinct] in order to simultaneously increase output and enrich the fertility of the soil.

Setting up high-yield rice areas constitutes the most effective orientation for practicing intensive cultivation. High-yield rice areas that are established on land with an average or better grade of soil fertility or with conditions for rapid soil transformation, where irrigation and drainage are assured, where the peasants are fairly conservant with intensive cultivation techniques, and where managerial cadres are experienced, can turn out marketable agricultural products at the rate of 1.5 metric tons per hectare and more. In those areas in 1985, the entire country will strive to plant 2 million hectares of high-yield rice, including 950,000 hectares of the winter-spring crop, 350,000 hectares of the summer-fall crop, and 700,000 hectares of the 10th-month crop, in order to produce 8-8.5 million metric tons of grain for the whole year. We must expand the experience gained in the establishment of all [words indistinct], with a view to ensuring that good and steady results will be achieved no matter what type of grain is planted.

We must pay even more attention to making appropriate investments in agriculture in order to resolve at all costs the grain problem on the basis of gradually shaping up comprehensive agriculture and firmly resolving the people's food problem. The responsibility of all sectors at the central level is to join the various localities in making use of all innovations, measures, and dynamic and flexible work methods to ensure that adequate fertilizer, insecticides, and other necessary materials are supplied for grain production in accordance with the crop cultivation schedule, first of all in key areas.

Along with vigorously developing grain production, efforts must be concentrated to a high degree on procuring grain at home and practicing absolute thrift in grain consumption. Liquors should not be distilled illegally, and rice should not be used to feed hogs. State control over the absolute majority of marketable grain must be guaranteed in order to realize at all costs the policy on the state's unified management of and monopoly over the grain trade.

The year 1985 is the last year of the 1981-85 5-year state plan. It will be the year when we must strive to achieve the grain production targets set forth by the fifth party congress. All our party, Army, and people must make our very best efforts to accelerate grain production and, as an immediate step, to make the winter-spring crop production season an all-round success in terms of acreage, yield, and output. Each production season has its own favorable conditions and difficulties. As part of the movement for productive labor of the masses who are collective masters and under the guidance of the localities, especially the districts, it is certain that by developing our dynamism and creativeness in making preparations for production under all circumstances and standing ready to overcome all difficulties, our people will fulfill the grain production plans for 1985 and the 1981-85 5-year period, thus contributing to the construction and defense of the socialist homeland.

ARTICLE VIEWS POLICY OF FIFTH CPV CONGRESS

OW101648 Hanoi VNA in English 1443 GMT 10 Jan 85

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 10 -- Under the headline "Combining Efforts of the State and of the People" the TAP CHI CONG SAN (COMMUNIST REVIEW) in its latest issue elaborates on this policy decided at the 5th Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam and reaffirmed at the recent 6th and 7th Central Committee plenums.

The review says: In the system of collective mastery of the people the people together with the state daily take part in the activities of economic build-up and cultural development. Under the motto "Continue efforts of the state and of the people", in the past three years, the people have contributed nearly 200 million workdays to building irrigation works, developing transport in the countryside and building various cultural and public welfare projects.

This motto can be acted upon in a number of ways: Some projects are directly undertaken by the state with the participation of the people; in others, it is the people who directly take charge with the assistance of the state. Some projects are partly done by the state and partly by the people. In other instances, both the state and the people take direct part.

The motto also implies that some work may be undertaken jointly by the central government, the local government and the grassroots, or jointly by the state economic sector, the collective sector and the family sector. It also implies that the state would leave to the people of the localities the responsibility and help them in the building of such projects as suit their capabilities. Likewise, it should leave to the collectives and the families what they can do and do well. The policy is worked out with a view to enhancing the responsibility of the people and their sense of collective mastery in the development of the economy and culture and improving their own lot.

Agriculture is at the present stage the foremost front of the national economy, involving some 70 percent of the social workforce. That is why, the first requisite in the implementation of the policy of combining efforts of the state and of the people is to develop agriculture all-sidedly, chiefly in the following six businesses: food production, industrial crops, cattle and poultry raising, tree planting and afforestation, aquaculture, small industries and handicrafts. This requires, as a collateral task, the building of the district level in order to make of it an effective place to reorganize production and carry out simultaneously the three revolutions in the countryside, and to care for the material and cultural life of the people, to combine the strength of the whole country with the strength of each district in order step by step to form an agro-industrial economic structure at the district level and to contribute to the industrialization of the country.

If the policy of combining efforts of the state and of the people is to be effectively carried out, it is necessary to make use of each economic sector along the line of constantly strengthening the leading role of the state sector, observe the right to autonomy of the various state-run economic units aimed at transforming them into models in terms of productivity, quality and efficiency. It is also important to encourage the development and improve the quality of the collective economic sector, and apply judicious policies so as to ensure the superiority of collective businesses over individual businesses. At the same time, it is necessary to make correct use of the private economy, develop its positive aspects and curb its negative aspects, and guide it into the socialist orbit. In this respect, to encourage the family economy is the most positive way to mobilize the families for economic build-up and to implement the policy of combining efforts of the state and of the people.

DIRECTIVE ISSUED ON PEOPLE'S COUNCIL ELECTIONS

BK081056 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] On 20 December the party Central Committee Secretariat issued a directive on exerting leadership over the elections of deputies to the people's councils and people's committees of provinces and municipalities and special zones directly subordinate to the central government for the 1985-89 term. The elections are scheduled for 21 April 1985.

The directive clearly points out: The party committees at provincial, municipal, and special zone echelons should lead the elections in strict accordance with the law and directives issued by responsible organs to create conditions for the working people to exert their right to collective mastery in selecting worthy people to serve on the people's councils, the organs of the state's power in the localities. They should also lead the selection of capable and prestigious people from among people's council members to serve on the people's committees.

In this new term, it is necessary to increase the number of people's councillors elected from persons who are outstanding workers in concentrated industrial zones; who typify the new productive forces at various work sites, state farms, and agricultural, small industrial, and handicraft cooperatives and production collectives; and who are scientific and technical cadres and socialist intellectuals endowed with good qualities and capabilities. In places inhabited by tribesmen, there must be an adequate number of people's councillors elected from various ethnic minority groups. About 30 percent of the people's councillors should be elected from among women and members of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union. CPV Members should not account for more than 60 percent of the people's councillors. The number of outgoing councillors reelected should not account for more than 50 percent of the membership of the new people's councils.

On the basis of standards set by law for people's council membership and of the people's council structure already determined, party committees at all echelons should closely lead the VFF committees and people's organizations and guide working people's collectives at the grass-roots level in selecting and recommending the most typical people to run in the elections.

Concerning the membership of people's committees in the new tenure, party committees at all echelons should select as candidates those cadres who have shown firmness in carrying out the tasks of socialist transformation, socialist construction, and national defense and who have a knowledge of and capacity for state and socioeconomic managerial work.

Attention must be paid to increasing the number of people's committee members who are workers, women, scientific and technical cadres, and cadres of ethnic minority groups in those places inhabited by tribesmen. The standing component of a people's committee must be composed of people with typical revolutionary qualities and managerial capability and with a good knowledge of law. A person expected to be elected as member and secretary of this standing component must have a firm grasp of state administrative procedures and formalities.

Party committees at all echelons must listen to and respect the views of the people, cadres, and party members in the places where people who are recommended to stand for elections live and work. They must satisfactorily settle the petitions, denunciations, and complaints lodged by voters. They must resolutely avoid introducing into the people's councils individuals who possess little capability and few qualities; who are corrupt, profit-seeking, and authoritarian; and who bully the masses.

FURTHER ON JAPANESE DIETMEN DELEGATION VISIT

Talks With Nguyen Co Thach

OW101131 Tokyo KYODO in English 1101 GMT 10 Jan 85

[Text] Hanoi, Jan. 10 KYODO - A Japanese parliamentary delegation led by former Foreign Minister Yoshio Sakurauchi Thursday inspected a Vietnamese dam construction site about 80 kilometers southwest of Hanoi. The construction is under way with more than 1,000 Soviet technical experts participating. Some 20,000 Vietnamese workers are working. When completed in 1992, the dam's power generating plant is expected to have two million kilowatt output.

The visiting Japanese legislators -- three members of the House of Representatives and three members of the House of Councillors -- also met with Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach in Hanoi for an exchange of views on the situation in Southeast Asia, including Kampuchea, and Japan-Vietnam problems.

Meeting With Pham Van Dong

OW110053 Tokyo KYODO in English 0003 GMT 11 Jan 85

[Text] Hanoi, Jan. 10 KYODO -- Vietnamese Premier Pham Van Dong told a Japanese parliamentary mission Thursday Vietnam hopes for friendly ties with Japan. Pham Van Dong called for an improvement in Tokyo-Hanoi relations step by step, said the leader of the group, former Foreign Minister Yoshio Sakurauchi.

The Vietnamese Government head assured the Japanese that Vietnam will pull its troops out of Kampuchea steadily and certainly. The premier asked the mission to tell non-communist Southeast Asian nations that Vietnam is hoping to have friendly and peaceful relationship with any country, Sakurauchi said.

Sakurauchi, Japan's foreign minister in 1981-1982, came to Vietnam on January 3 as head of the six-member mission from the Dietmen's League for Japan-Vietnam Friendship. The former foreign minister said he proposed to Pham Van Dong promoting cultural and academic exchanges, humanitarian assistance and personnel exchanges. Sakurauchi, the chief aide of Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, told the premier he would make efforts to help realize dialogue between the communist Indochina and non-communist Southeast Asia in a bid to bring peace to Kampuchea.

Pham Van Dong welcomed Sakurauchi's initiative but accused China of failing to show sincerity toward rapprochement with Vietnam and of embarrassing efforts for peace in Kampuchea.

The Japanese mission leaves Friday for Bangkok and will return to Tokyo Saturday. Besides Sakurauchi, the group members are Seiichi Kataoka, Yoshihiko Tsuchiya, Torao Takazawa, Kazuhiro Suzuki and Atsushi Hashimoto. Sakurauchi, Kataoka and Tsuchiya are Liberal-Democrats, Takazawa a Socialist, Suzuki a Komeito member, and Hashimoto a Communist. They were invited by the Vietnamese parliament.

Sakurauchi on Cambodia

OW111135 Tokyo KYODO in English 1122 GMT 11 Jan 85

[Text] Hanoi, Jan. 11 KYODO -- Vietnam will pull out one-third or half of its troops in Kampuchea by 1987, even if a political solution to the Kampuchea problem would not come until then, visiting former Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshio Sakurauchi said here Friday.

Sakurauchi said he believes that Vietnam may withdraw one-third or half of its troops by 1987 and the most of the troops in five or six years. Depending upon the situation, a small part of the Vietnamese troops may remain in Kampuchea for 10 years, Sakurauchi said. Though an exact number of Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea is not clear, the figure is generally believed to be around 150,000.

Sakurauchi made the remark prior to departure for Bangkok Friday after a nine-day Vietnam tour during which he had talks with Premier Pham Van Dong, Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach and other leaders. Sakurauchi, a senior leader of Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone's faction within the ruling Japanese Liberal-Democratic Party, was visiting Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City as head of a six-member Japanese parliamentary delegation.

When the Japanese parliamentarians met parliament Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho on Tuesday, the Vietnamese leader said Vietnam can pull out its troops from Kampuchea in five or six years.

FOOD INDUSTRY OVERFULFILLS 1984 PRODUCTION PLAN

BK070907 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 2 Jan 85

[Text] In 1984, the food industry overfulfilled its production plan by 5.8 percent. With materials supplied by the state, the industry managed to increase the rate of production by 8.3 percent over 1983 and to accumulate over 10 billion dong for the state, nearly 1 billion in excess of the target.

Provided with insufficient materials, energy, and fuel to meet production requirements, the food industry has taken the initiative to overcome difficulties. It has reorganized and rearranged production work by concentrating material conditions on the manufacturing of products for export, products having high economic value, and products essential for the people's life. It has also achieved integration and promoted joint ventures with various localities to procure raw materials for industrial processing operations.

SINGAPOREMEETING TO DISCUSS U.S. POLICY ON SOUTHEAST ASIA

HK110458 Hong Kong AFP in English 0426 GMT 11 Jan 85

[By John Thomas]

[Text] Singapore, Jan 11 (AFP) -- The non-communist bloc in Southeast Asia, heavily reliant on the United States in defence and economic matters, is to discuss possible U.S. policy options and their consequences at a closed-door meeting here on Sunday, diplomatic sources said. The meeting convened by Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew is officially described as an informal gathering of ministers from Singapore's five partners in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger is a special guest.

But one source said, "With Mr Lee, the staunchest advocate of a higher U.S. profile in the region as host, and Dr Kissinger, renowned for his diplomatic acumen especially in opening the way for U.S. ties with China, as a special invitee, it is bound to be a brainstorming session on U.S. security perceptions in the region." Singapore officials have said that the meeting, although without formal agenda or speeches, would consider a wide range of developmental and security issues affecting the region. But they said no details of the discussions would be publicised.

The ASEAN guest list includes Philippines Premier Cesar Virata and Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, Thai Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila, and Indonesian Army Chief General Benny Murdani and Economy Minister Ali Wardhana. Also invited were Malaysia's Education Minister Abdullah Badawi and National Development Minister Sanusi Junid, and Brunei's Foreign Minister Prince Mohamad Bolkish and Law Minister Bahrin Abbas.

Diplomatic sources said the key topic could be the possibility of a thaw in U.S.-Vietnamese relations with talks on the fate of U.S. servicemen listed missing in action during the Vietnam war leading to diplomatic ties.

ASEAN has been the western Bulwark in Southeast Asia since communist victories in Indochina a decade ago. As such, the United States has been supporting ASEAN in its diplomatic drive against Soviet-backed Hanoi's involvement in Cambodia, besides giving ASEAN military assistance.

An allied area is the growing ties between the United States and China, which has sparked varying degrees of concern in several ASEAN countries, the diplomatic source said. Another problem that could be raised is the chance of the United States losing its air and naval facilities in the Philippines. These are vital to U.S. strategy in Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean in the face of what Washington and ASEAN perceive as a growing Soviet presence, the sources added.

"While these topics may sound far-fetched, discussions at such a discreet and informal session could help ASEAN ministers air ideas and be prepared for future shocks if not pre-empt them," said one diplomatic observer. Washington usually sends the secretary of state for a dialogue with ASEAN foreign ministers immediately after their annual conference.

Thailand and the Philippines are formal military allies of the United States under the Manila Pact while Singapore and Malaysia have indirect ties through Washington's allies Australia and New Zealand.

Australia and New Zealand, together with Britain, a North Atlantic ally of the United States, are in a loose defence arrangement providing a military backup for Singapore and Malaysia since the British pullout in early 1970's. Canberra and Wellington have a military presence in these two countries. Brunei, which became independent last year, and Indonesia have no defence links as such, but they carry out military exercises on a bilateral basis with other ASEAN countries.

Increasing ASEAN's military cooperation has been a pet peave of Mr Lee and this could again be brought up at the meeting, the sources said.

GOH GIVEN 'COMPLETE LEEWAY' IN GOVERNMENT

BK071259 Singapore THE SUNDAY TIMES in English 6 Jan 85 p 1

[By Lee Kim Chew]

[Text] The Prime Minister has given Mr Goh Chok Tong and the younger Cabinet ministers complete authority to take charge of the country. Mr Goh, the First Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister, will also have full control of the People's Action Party as its de facto leader.

Asked by THE SUNDAY TIMES in an interview whether the Prime Minister had given him and his team complete leeway to run the affairs of state, Mr Goh said: "Yes, the arrangement we have is that he will continue to give us his ideas. But we make the decisions. It will not be right or wise for him to keep quiet, for we will then be losing out on valuable ideas and experience, which he has. But whatever he tells us, the understanding is that they will be inputs. We will weigh them along with our own ideas and thoughts before we decide. The style of government and the substance of policies will be ours."

Clearly, Mr Lee Kuan Yew is underlining his confidence in the ability of the new Cabinet, which is dominated by the younger ministers with Mr Goh as the leaderman. Mr Goh said he and his Cabinet colleagues in the younger team -- Mr Ong Teng Cheong, Dr Tony Tan, Mr S. Dhanabalan, Dr Ahmad Mattar, Dr Yeo Ning Hong and Prof S. Jayakumar -- worked well together.

He added: "There's real understanding among us. Before, there was no formal leaderman so three or four of us, meaning myself, Mr Ong, Dr Tan or Mr Dhanabalan, tended to dominate the discussions. I expect to play a more dominant leadership role now. That is expected of me."

Elevated to the post of First Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Goh, who will continue to operate from his office in the Defence Ministry, now has to oversee inter-ministry coordination, and concentrate on larger problems and major political issues. He will shed most of his responsibilities in Mindef to the Second Defence Minister, Dr Yeo, who will take over routine matters like chairing the weekly meetings and approving tender documents.

Dr Yeo, who is also Communications and Information Minister as well as Second National Development Minister, will get help from Brigadier-General Lee Hsien Loong, the Minister of State (Defence and Trade and Industry). Dr Yeo's stint in the National Development Ministry is purely to understand how the Housing Board works.

"Somebody else besides Mr Teh Cheang Wan has got to know how the HDB [Housing Development Board] operates," said Mr Goh. This year, Mr Goh will concentrate on the home front. He plans to broaden his contacts internationally next year.

PIMENTEL REPORTEDLY CHARGED WITH REBELLION

OW110835 Tokyo KYODO in English 0828 GMT 11 Jan 85

[Text] Manila, Jan. 11 KYODO -- A leading opposition president contender Assemblyman Aquilino 'Nene' Pimentel, learned Friday as he boarded a plane for the United States that government prosecutors had charged him with rebellion. "I'll rush and get aboard the plane in case the authorities try to stop me from leaving," he said on learning of the charges from a KYODO NEWS SERVICE reporter at a departure gate at Manila International Airport.

Pimentel, 51, took off minutes later aboard a PanAm flight to change planes in Tokyo en route to a one-month speaking tour in the United States, Canada and Europe. He said he was not officially notified of the charge.

He spent a year under house arrest while mayor of the big southern Philippines city of Cagayan de Oro after a captured self-confessed communist detainee told police that Pimentel once gave him 100 pesos (about 5 dollars). Pimentel told KYODO Friday he presumed the rebellion charge may be linked to the alleged donation.

Pimentel was released last May so he could join the closing weeks of National Assembly general elections. He won a seat, but was disqualified by the government-appointed commission on elections for alleged counting irregularities. At Pimentel's request, the Supreme Court has agreed to recount the votes starting next week.

RAMOS ASSURES OPPOSITION OF SECURITY FOR SALONGA

OW110213 Quezon City RPN Television Network in English 1100 GMT 10 Jan 85

[From the "Newswatch" program]

[Text] Acting Armed Forces Chief General Fidel Ramos today assured opposition leaders that the military will provide adequate security to Liberal Party President Jovita Salonga. Salonga is expected to arrive in Manila on January 21. Ramos gave this assurance during a meeting with Liberal Party leaders at camp Aguinaldo this morning. Jose Carlos was there:

[Begin video recording] [Carlos] The Liberal Party leaders sought the military's assistance to alleviate apprehensions over the safety of Senator Salonga and his family. According to Liberal Party spokesman Rey Fajardo there have been several death threats on the life of Salonga, one of the opposition's probable presidential bets. After the closed door meeting General Ramos and Alejandro Roces, chairman of Salonga's welcome committee, talked to newsmen.

[Ramos] I would like to give the assurance to all on the part of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Integrated National Police, that that is precisely our objective, first to ensure the orderly arrival of Mr Salonga, and to ensure likewise his safe arrival at his destination here in the Philippines.

[Roces] We feel certain after the assurances of General Ramos that Senator Salonga will not only be safe but he will be accorded a warm welcome by the nation. Thank you.

[Carlos] So far the government has no plans whether or not to arrest Salonga who is facing several criminal charges. Rey Fajardo told KBS News that Salonga is ready to face any fate that may befall him when he arrives.

[Fajardo] Senator Salonga is prepared for the worst. In fact this morning in an interview with radio he said, I am prepared to die. So this talk about his arrest is secondary, you know. He is prepared for anything.

[Carlos] Fajardo also informed newsmen that other details of Salonga's arrival will be known to the public a few days before January 21. [end recording]

MENDOZA COMMENTS ON RETURN TO GOVERNORSHIP

HK110358 Quezon City Maharlika Broadcasting System in English 1100 GMT 10 Jan 85

[Text] Justice Minister Estelito Mendoza today stressed that his return as Pampanga governor was a reassumption of his responsibility, not a takeover of an office. He made this statement in an interview with MBS [Maharlika Broadcasting System] radio news in San Fernando, Pampanga.

[Begin Mendoza recording in Tagalog] I have returned here to my post so as to answer the call of the nation, as well as the request of my countrymen, not out of willful pride. I am happy to answer this call of the people and to be given the chance to serve. [end recording]

At the same time, Mendoza denied reports that about 100 soldiers stormed and took over the provincial capital in what was described as a coup d'etat during the takeover of the governorship. He said there were only four or five soldiers from the provincial constabulary command who acted as security. On the legality of his resumption, the justice minister said he was resuming as elective governor of Pampanga and he considers himself bound by a mandate to serve. He pointed out that he never resigned as governor but merely went on leave. According to Mendoza, there is no constitutional impediment on appointed members of the Batasan from holding other positions.

TOLENTINO SAYS U.S.-USSR TALKS VERY ENCOURAGING

HK110501 Quezon City Maharlika Broadcasting System in English 0400 GMT 11 Jan 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Arturo Tolentino has described as very encouraging the results of the American-Soviet talks in Geneva this week on the opening arms control negotiations. Tolentino expressed hope that the two countries will soon reach an agreement to limit nuclear missiles on earth and to control the arms race in peace.

[Begin Tolentino recording] I look at this as an indication that some kind of an agreement will ultimately be reached on the subject of nuclear arms control and the arms race in space. I think the world should be happy about this development and the Philippines in particularly glad about this development. [end recording]

NO OPPOSITION PLANS TO BOYCOTT 1986 ELECTION

OW102329 Quezon City RPN Television Network in English 1100 GMT 10 Jan 85

[From the "Newswatch" program]

[Text] There are no plans by the opposition to boycott the 1986 local elections and the 1987 presidential polls. Butz Aquino made this announcement this morning in a news conference at the (Mofair) office in Makati. Aquino said the opposition still believes that the KBL announcement on the scheduled elections was just a ploy meant to discourage opposition preparations for an earlier presidential election. Aquino also announced that the list of possible opposition candidate for president will be increased to 12.

ENRILE, RICHARD ARMITAGE DISCUSS SECURITY

OW102343 Quezon City RPN Television Network in English 1100 GMT 10 Jan 85

[From the "Newswatch" program]

[Text] Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile received this morning visiting U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs Richard Armitage. During a brief talk at Camp Aguinaldo, Enrile and Armitage discussed various topics of mutual concern to Philippine-U.S. security. The U.S. official was accompanied by U.S. Ambassador Stephen Bosworth and top U.S. military and embassy officials.

GOVERNMENT RICE STOCKS ONLY 53,000 METRIC TONS

HK101509 Manila METRO MANILA TIMES in English 10 Jan 85 p 12

[By Ramon Tomeldan]

[Text] Government rice stocks now stand at only 53,000 metric tons, enough for only three days based on the national consumption rate of 16,000 metric tons daily.

But Minister Jesus Tanchanco of the National Food Authority (NFA) yesterday said the government stocks would last for 53 days because the NFA was distributing only 1,000 metric tons of rice to markets daily. In previous weeks, NFA managed to build up more than 75,000 metric tons of rice as it distributed only 6,000-7,000 metric tons daily. NFA had earlier increased its distribution rate because private rice traders were holding back their stocks in apparent anticipation of a higher price in the next few days, Tanchanco told reporters after a meeting with rice farmers in Bulacan and Pampanga yesterday.

Tanchanco said government officials were still studying whether the retail price of rice, pegged at P5.35 a kilo, should be increased.

NFA rice stocks will increase later upon arrival of imports from Indonesia. Some 25,000 metric tons of the imported 100,000 metric tons from Indonesia were shipped in starting December 31. Indonesia will bring in to the country the balance of the total contracted volume of rice within three months.

Tanchanco also said the NFA would include crude oil among the products to be loaned to farmers participating in the integrated rice production program of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (MAF). Tanchanco said farmers use water pumps that run on crude oil to draw water and irrigate their farms.

NFA, a credit conduit of the rice program, will finance 30,000 hectares nationwide, with 3,000 hectares in Bulacan and 4,800 hectares in Pampanga. Tanchanco did not say if the payments for crude oil loans would be different from the present scheme.

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